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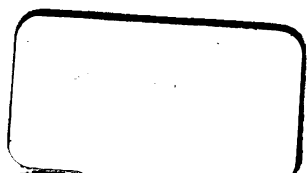
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109

LETTERS OF
HENRY BREVOORT
TO
WASHINGTON IRVING

**TOGETHER WITH OTHER UNPUBLISHED
BREVOORT PAPERS**

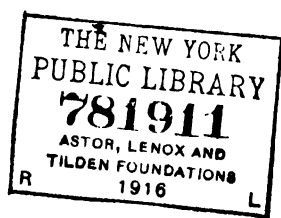
**EDITED, WITH AN INTRODUCTION, BY
GEORGE S. HELLMAN**

**IN TWO VOLUMES
VOLUME TWO**

**NEW YORK
G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS
The Knickerbocker Press**

1916

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**LETTERS OF HENRY BREVOORT
TO WASHINGTON IRVING**

LETTERS OF HENRY BREVOORT TO WASHINGTON IRVING

New York, Nov. 19th 1827.

MY DEAR IRVING:—

Your kind & affectionate letter of the 4 April reached me about six weeks ago, and I need not assure you that it has removed from my mind every cause of complaint & I beg that the warmth with which I expressed myself on the subject may be forgotten.—

Your life &c of Columbus has been put to press—judging from the first sheet which your brother shewed me yesterday, you will no doubt be pleased with the manner in which it will be printed.

The edit: will comprise about 2000 Copies.
—As to offering any conjectures or auguries of the reception which it is like to receive

NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 19th 1827

from the public—they would be idle at present. Many persons of the highest literary standing among us (Halleck Bryant & others) have expressed their satisfaction upon hearing that you were engaged on a subject which they think properly belongs to us—so that you have every reason to expect a candid & friendly reception. Indeed I must say that no author enjoys a higher place in the esteem of the public than yourself. Depend upon it my dear Irving, whatever you may have been induced to believe to the contrary, that you have every reason to be satisfied with the kindly feelings of your countrymen, so far as I am enabled to judge.—I fear that in composing this work you have subjected yourself to excessive labour & fatigue, but as you do not complain of ill health I trust your mind has been relieved by the novelty of your researches. I long to see you return to works of imagination. But the exploits of these daring discoveries of new worlds really to my mind

NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 19th 1827

possess the truth of history with the wildest charms of romance. Columbus stands at the head of them—both as to boldness of exploit & real dignity & nobleness of mind & character.—I hope you will be cheered by every sort of success both here and in Europe.—

Our old friends are all well—Kemble is going on very prosperously—Harry Ogden is now in New York—a prosperous and lusty looking gentleman. Paulding I regret to say (about two months since) lost one of his children—it died at the Foundry after a few days illness.—My own family—wife & 5 children are all in good health, after having past the summer very quietly at the old cottage at Hernshook—Hellgate. I have fished in every nook & corner of that old ungrateful ground until my skin was as sunburnt as old Mud Sam.—My father & mother are yet in the full enjoyment of health & spirits. The old gentleman has just passed his 80th year—with no other annoyance to his happi-

NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 19th 1827

ness, but the encroachment of the City upon his domains.—The Professor* & his family are very well & agreeably situated in the College.

You mentioned in your letter Halleck & Bryant—they are both members of "The Lunch" a social club which has been in existence here for several years.—When you come to us, I know you will have great enjoyment in their society & in that of the Lunch. They are shy men & are very little seen in society. Halleck is Secretary of an Ins: Comp^y—Bryant lives by his pen. They are undoubtedly men of very high endowments. Halleck regretted that he did not meet you some years since—I gave him a letter to you, but I believe you were in Germany.—

On Thursday last M^r Emmett was seized with apoplexy in the Court & expired in ten hours. I was sitting as a juror very near to him & I never witnessed a scene of more heartrending distress. He could not be re-

* *James Renwick.*

NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 19th 1827

moved for several hours, during which his father came in & suffered beyond description. He never felt a moments pain.—Pray give my affectionate regards to my excellent friend your brother Peter.

I hope his health is quite restored.—

Nicolson is still at his station—I believe he will be ordered back very soon.—Believe me my dear Irving ever

affec^d Y^r

H. B. J^r

NEW YORK, DECEMBER 19th 1827

New York, December 19th 1827.

MY DEAR IRVING:—

I wrote to you some time since, to the care of B Henry Gibraltar, but I doubt whether my letter has reached you.—Your life of Columbus is going through the press & will be ready for publication by the middle of March, or sooner if practicable. At first your brother determined to follow your directions & publish it in two Vol^s but the thickness of the paper & the quantity of the matter would make them too bulky, and he now thinks of extending it to three Vol^s of about 450 pages each. In this form it will be more acceptable to the booksellers—nor will it be necessary to disjoin the Books & Chapters.—The Map which you sent will be neatly lithographed & reduced to about half the size.—

The very liberal manner in which Murray has dealt with you, has been made public through the Boston Newspapers and will we think induce Cary to make proposals for the

edition.—I have advised your brother to let him have it at a liberal discount say 35 or 40 per Cent, which would still leave a clear gain of about \$3000.

Cary's influence as a publisher is so potential, that it is desirable he should have the disposal of the work.—Like Murray he has become the proprietor of a quarterly Review—["] The Am: q: Review," which has been in existence for a year & has a very wide circulation.—Master Walsh is the Editor. Thus far he has been aided by some of our best writers & the review is pretty well kept up—He pays two dollars the page.—

Renwick has furnished an article for each of the numbers—one on Champollon—one on Shipbuilding—one on Egyptian Chronology & a short notice of Weights & Measures.—

He has another ready for the forthcoming March number, & proposes to prepare a review of your Work provided Walsh has room for it—this he will ascertain in a few days.

Should there be room left, the review will appear a short time before the Work itself, but a similar anachronism occurred in two articles on Scott's Napoleon which preceded the publication of the Work nearly six months.—Sir Walter's Book was greatly aided by the review & many thousand copies have been sold.

It will also be desirable to supplant Master Walsh in laying his unhallowed hands upon your Work; he is too vindictive to be trusted with the power of sitting in judgment upon you.—

I know that you disclaim all critical support but be assured that here, as in England, the public taste is very much influenced & governed by reviewers. Possibly I judge Walsh too harshly, but he has shewn in his last number how ungenerously he can avenge an old editorial grudge by a bitter condemnation of Carter's travels. Should his forth-coming number be already pre-

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occupied you will have to stand over for the next.—

I was very much surprised to learn from your nephew that some caitiff had taken the trouble to annoy you by sending a collection of scraps of censure which have appeared in the news papers. Rely upon it, they were beneath your notice—I take upon myself to affirm that your character & pursuits are held by your countrymen in the most endearing estimation, and whenever I shall have the happiness of again welcoming you home, you will find my opinion confirmed to your hearts content.—

All our old friends are well—Paulding Kemble Ogden &c &c.—My wife & children are all as I could wish them.—My boys are growing up apace & promise fairly.—Our mode of life is quiet & domestic & the events of a day are succeeded by scarcely any novelty. I have been sadly perplexed for nearly three years past by an accidental involvement to

nearly the whole extent of my means—but by dint of exertion I think I shall escape without a heavy loss. First, I was misled into the purchase of a great number of lots on Stuyvesants meadows by a joint purchase under a belief that I was bound for only an eight[h] part of them—but owing to the insolvency of my copartners—nearly the whole purchase was left upon my hands, with the prospect of \$30,000 loss—but the lots are beginning to acquire a value & I hope to get rid of the burthen without a great loss.—Next, I was caught with 40,000\$ stock in the Bank of Montreal, thinking that the money could not be better placed. I had suffered it to remain for twelve years. Owing however to the failure of half a dozen of the old Scotch houses & the misconduct of the President (M^r Gerrard) in whom my confidence was unlimited, the affairs of the Bank became deeply involved and have remained so for nearly three years.—At present I have the prospect

of escaping with a loss of 20,000\$.—The experience that I have gained is rather dearly bought, but I am content & shall endeavour to profit by it for the future.—

My father & mother are still in the enjoyment of health & contentment. The sole annoyance of the good old patriarch is the inroads of the Corporation who will persist in raising the value of his land by cutting it up into streets, & burthening him by assessments. The old Gentleman rebels & talks of the purity of the olden time, but is obliged to submit.—

D Lynch returned from Europe lately. His affairs are in disorder owing to an imprudent speculation in Brandy—but he hopes to retrieve them by a contract which he has made for 10 years of all the wine produced by the estate of Chateau Margaux. He has been figuring at the Court of the Lady Lieutenant in Dublin & sings us songs composed for him by Moore, all gaily as ever.—Luther Bradish has been elected to the Legislature by the

NEW YORK, DECEMBER 19th 1827

County of Franklin, being a large landed proprietor in that quarter—he seems highly pleased with his honors & I doubt not will do the State some service.

Paulding had the misfortune of losing one of his children last summer—he & Gertrude have been in deep distress by this sudden event.—He continues to live along in a quiet way, mixing seldom with society & occasionally producing a work of merit. He is a contributor to Walsh.—Kemble sticks close to his Foundry, which has now become a very extensive & profitable concern.

Renwick as you justly observe is making himself known by the depth & variety of his acquirements. He is a very able civil engineer, & is often employed in that line.—He writes for Brand's journal & is in close correspondence with Capt Sabine & other men of eminent scientific standing.—He has four children; three boys & a girl & lives very independently in the College.—His Mother is

just the same as you left her; the troubles of the world (of which she has had too large a share) have made little impression upon her.—Jane is married to a son of John Wilkes (a Lieu^t in the Navy)—Agnes is engaged to be married to the Rev^d. M^r. Henry, a son of M^r. Henry the lawyer in Albany—John is married & lives on a farm—Bobie has just returned from the Western Country—to reside in N Y.—W^m is a bachelor.

VerPlanck is a great Jackson man & sticks closely to his congressional duties—but he does not make a figure there. Your old f^d Randolph triumphs in the success of the Jackson cause.—He predicted last year that John the 2^d was only serving out the term of John the first, which is like to be prophetic. A few days ago, after escorting the new Speaker to the Chair he seized an Adams man by the arm & pointing to the Speaker, asked whether he did not perceive the handwriting upon the wall.—His health is exhausted.—

Little Cambreling is also a great man. Sam Swartwout is in hopes of becoming a great man—having been one of Jackson's sturdiest supporters.—Charles King has laboured hard for the Adams cause & has reaped no reward.—

The pugnacious character of our citizens still continues. Lately a M^r Barton of Phil: killed a M^r Graham at Hoboken in a duel, provoked by the latter—Graham was assistant editor to Noah & had made himself very obnoxious by his satire upon what Charles King foolishly called "good society." He was a man of great talents and had passed a life of adventure in England & mixed with all classes of society.—Since then D^r Hosack sent Cad Colden with a challenge to D^r Watts—which produced an apology. Yesterday—a challenge was sent by M^r Henry Eckford to Maxwell (the Dis^t Att^y) the cause of which grew out of the late indictments for conspiracy—Maxwell very properly handed the challenge to the Police. Whether

NEW YORK, DECEMBER 19th 1827

the Shipbuilder intended to use the Broadaxe or the pistol I know not.—He is rather a *mauvaise** sujet.—Our City is besett with Theatres—all of which seem to get on successfully.

The Ladies of ton give soirées every Tuesday & send their cards to their fds of fashion.—

My wife enjoins me to offer her kindest regards.—Pray give my affec^d remembrances to y^r brother Peter—

I am My d^r Irving

ever Y^r

H. BREVOORT, J^r

Jack Nicolson is to return to the U States in the course of the Winter.

* *Sic.*

NEW YORK, MAY 31st 1828

New York, May 31st 1828.

MY DEAR IRVING:—

I have received your letter dated Madrid 23rd february & have delayed answering it until I could speak confidently of the reception of your life of Columbus.—I can now assure you of its complete success.—The opinions of Chancellor Kent P A Jay W Johnston Prof: Moore Halleck & many others of the same class of readers place it in the first rank of historical compositions—They are struck with the dignity of your style—the depth of your researches—your clear & unbroken narrative of events & above all with the romantic interest which you have infused into every portion of the work.—All seemed gratified that the discoverer of the new world should have found a biographer, worthy of his fame, in one of its sons, & it is certain that you could not have employed your time & talents upon a happier subject, or on one of more dignified interest to readers in this quarter

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of the globe. I do hope that this universal concurrence of opinion as to the value of your labours amongst us, will at once banish from your mind every feeling of distrust as to the kindness & cordiality of your countrymen; depend upon it my d^r Irving that they are proud of your name and speak nobly of you.— If peradventure you should ever chance to see that notable criticism which preceded your work in Walsh's Review, it may account to you for the eagerness with which y^r work is read; it being the united wisdom of three great writers—the introduction by y^r humble servant—the criticism by Renwick & the extracts by Walsh.—

I understand from the Carvils that more than $2/3^{\text{ds}}$ of the edition is sold; they are highly pleased with being the publishers & are very anxious to get possession of any future work from your pen.—Your brother, as he no doubt has informed you, has concluded with Cary a sale of all the copies of your former works,

NEW YORK, MAY 31st 1828

at about the cost of printing—he has moreover sold to them the priveledge of printing & publishing them under certain conditions for the next seven years, for the annual payment of \$600.—This arrangement I feel satisfied will please you—first you will be a gainer in money—second your writings, in their hands & under their management will be pushed into a much wider circulation amongst a new class of readers to whom they have hitherto been nearly inaccessible. It is thus that Cooper's Works have been made productive; had they been published in the shape that yours have been, they would neither have brought him bread nor reputation.—Besides your brother will be relieved from a great deal of labour & care.—

I take it for granted that you will have returned to France by the time this will arrive. We have accounts of the return of y^r brother & that his health was mending.—I have little to tell you of my own affairs—

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about a week since M^r B brought into the world a daughter & I am happy to say is quite well. You see my dear fellow that my works are nearly as numerous as yours; whether they will live as long & be as kindly treated by the world is rather questionable.— One thing is certain, that I am determined this shall be the last.—

Paulding has a Work in the press, but I know not what the subject is.—His son Kemble & one of mine are great cronies & are in the same latin class—he is a very fine little fellow & bids fair to be as quaint & odd as his father. Gouv. Kemble is very rich—Capt Jack returned some time since from his five years cruise—he is as usual high in favour with the Ladies & has the entré to every family of distinction in the town of Gotham.—I cannot perceive that he is in the least changed—except that he talks rather ad libitum of the fine arts, genuine taste, &c, &c.—The Renwicks are as usual. My father & mother continue in the land of the

NEW YORK, MAY 31st 1828

living. The old Gent^m has lately become much renowned—having cured the Earl of Huntingdon of dropsey by the use of a root called Indian Hemp (*apocinum cannabinum*). He would in the opinion of Hosack have died in twelve hours, had it not been for the hemp, which by the merest accident I happened to think of. It effected the same miracle on the old gentleman & a child of Renwick's, who was at the point of death of dropsey in the head. The poor Earl is very grateful—& sails for England today.—

Pray give my kindest regards to your brother & believe me my d^r Irving ever Y^r

H. BREVOORT, J^r

NEW YORK, MARCH 30th 1829

New York, March 30th 1829.

MY DEAR IRVING:—

Believing that you will have returned from your long sojourn in Spain by the time this letter will reach France, I shall enclose it to your brother—I have received your letter dated the 24 December—The pirate had struck his flag, before the arrival of your Abridgement, and nothing delays its publication, but the time given by your brother to the Carvils, being unexpired—I mean the time given for the sale of the edition of the Life. Very few copies remain to be sold. I do not doubt that the Abridgement will have a very wide circulation; it will be an excellent school book. The Chronicle is waiting until news arrive of its being published in London. Cary has put forth a neat edition of your Works, which will bring them before a class of readers to whom they were, in a manner, a sealed book.—I do admire your perseverance & industry in digging up ore from those mines

NEW YORK, MARCH 30th 1829

of the Indias, to which you are so fortunate as to have access. You seem to my imagination like another Belzoni, working among the tomes—not tombs—in the cathedral library at Seville.

It is delightful to think of the enduring name that you have already acquired & the rapid advances which you are making, at the same time, towards independence.—

The enquiries you make about all our old friends, now fast approaching the yellow leaf, conveys an intimation, that you will return amongst them—Come when you will, you will find them true to you and ready to unite with you in renewing scenes of youthful enjoyment.—As to myself, I do believe, I might pass myself off *abroad*, for a fresh bachellor of 35—but the malice of my seniors delights in throwing some dozen years more over my head, in order to avenge themselves for the dilapidations of time—But the youngest of us, is, & ever will be, the Super-

NEW YORK, MARCH 30th 1829

cargo—he will be a boy at fourscore—He has lately been showing off under various disguises at the numerous masquerades which now infest this crack brained City.—Captain Jack has dissolved his bachellor's concern with William Bayard & come down to the lower part of the City—His days are passed in devotion to the ladies—he is in the bowels of every ones confidence—eating the good dinners & caprioling with the daughter of a score of wealthy burgomasters—falling in & out of love without wounding his amour propre, or lessening his rotundity a single inch. The latter evil is encreased, goes on encreasing, & ought to be diminished—and I verily believe Jack's happiness would be complete, if the gods would lessen his girth & reduce him within the limits of sentimentality.—But there are better men than Jack, whose troubles have been seated in the belly.—As to Paulding, he continues to lead a sort of Terrapin's life—sometimes when the sun

NEW YORK, MARCH 30th 1829

shines, he puts forth his head & walks up Broad Way but there is no use in striving to bring him into habits of social intercourse—they seem to have become irksome to him. Although we live within two hundred yards of each other, we might just as well be separated by so many leagues.—He writes Books, but they are the products of a mind at war with every thing—a mind too, that seems to have stood still, whilst all the world has been advancing in knowledge. So much so, as to have fairly outgrown him & the things that dwell in him.—Gouv: Kemble passes most of his time in the Highlands, occupied in his extensive manufacturing concerns.—He is the same good fellow that nature made him. William is the grand financier of those establishments, & bids fair to die as rich as old Astor—He seems to have been made of different material from the other members of the family, & I cannot say that I admire him or his talent.—The Professor is well &

NEW YORK, MARCH 30th 1829

often talks of you—so does his excellent mother—She looks nearly as well as when you left us—& her spirits are as good & her heart just as warm as ever.—

Master Sam: Swartwout, has just emerged from years of embarrassment & is to be made Collector in place of Thompson—Harry Ogden is to be his Cashier with a good salary, upon certain conditions.—I understand James A Hamilton, is to have the place of Consul in Paris.—The new Pres: * seems determined to provide for those who have bawled loudest in his praises—

God Bless you my d^r f^d

H. B. J^r

** Andrew Jackson.*

NEW YORK, APRIL 30th 1829

New York, April 30th 1829.

MY DEAR IRVING:—

I wrote to you not long ago, under cover to your brother Peter.—Since then your brother Ebenezer has sold to the Mess^{rs} Carvill, for \$6000 payable at reasonable periods, the right of publishing for five years, your *Life of Columbus*, as well as the *Abridgement*. The latter will soon appear in a neat octavo stereotyped, & the former, they are prepared to put to press so soon as a corrected copy is received from you.—A very small number of the copies of the first edition remain unsold.—I will briefly explain why your wishes were not complied with, and that the Carvills instead of Cary have become the purchasers.—You may remember when the MS of the *Life* was received by your brother, he offered the work to Cary & that he replied in so cold & discouraging a manner, that we were led to believe from some causes unknown to us, he was rather disposed to decline it, unless he

NEW YORK, APRIL 30th 1829

could obtain it upon his own terms.—In this dilemma the Carvills promptly came forward & purchased the edition, thus relieving your brother from any further bargaining on the part of Cary. No doubt he since regrets, that the work was permitted to slip from his hands, and it must be conceded that he has behaved very liberally in the purchases that he has subsequently made of your Works—but in this particular instance the blame lay solely with himself.—Now when the Carvills lately proposed for the second edition &c. your brother & myself held a consultation, & determined that it would be treating them illiberally to reject them without even naming a price; accordingly we fixed it at \$6000 a price which we did not believe they would give, in which case we intended to let Cary have the Works; but to our surprise, the little men were not to be frightened, & very promptly concluded the purchase.

With this explanation I am certain you will

NEW YORK, APRIL 30th 1829

be reconciled with a departure from your wishes as to Cary—in fact, you must have done as we have done, had you been upon the spot, nor has Cary any cause to be dissatisfied.

As in the instance of the Conquest of Granada, the next work that you send your brother may be at once offered to Cary; but I cannot help thinking that it is bad policy on your part to restrict your brother to a single purchaser; competition will always encrease the price, without hazarding in the least, the success of your productions.—Nevertheless, I agree with you that Cary ought to become the purchaser in all cases in which he may be disposed to come up to the price demanded—I speak with reference to any of your future writings, for no better reason however than his being in possession of all of them excepting Columbus.—The Carvills are possessed of ample means, and their capacity to extend the circulation of your Works is hardly below Cary's.—

NEW YORK, APRIL 30th 1829

The Conquest of Granada, has just been published, and so far as I can learn, it is very much liked. It is beautifully printed (steriotyped) both in large & small paper & I doubt not it will have an extensive circulation.—

If you are not worn to the bone, I hope you have had strength left to write another work on the subject of American discovery & conquest—either a History of the Conquest of Cortes or Pizarro or both; it would be an admirable sequel to the Life of Columbus, and I think that you might then rest (for a time at least) from your labors & enjoy the rewards & enjoyments of your fame and your industry.—Send all your money to your brother & order him to invest in our safest securities & there let it remain—they are not only the safest but the most productive, & his prudence is fully competent to choose the most eligible securities.—

This is so much of a matter of fact business epistle that I have barely room to add that

NEW YORK, APRIL 30th 1829

my wife & my six children are very well & that I am as usual, rather tired of the sameness & want of variety excitement & all the rest, that beset the life of a man in this Merchant City.—

I wrote to your brother on the subject of M^r. Beasely; and expressed my fears that some one of the *general's** friends would find means to be helped to his Consulate—I have heard nothing since, to alter my opinion on the subject.—He seems resolved to reward personal services without much regard to qualification.—

Sam Swartwout is the Collector—Noah—the inspector, James A Hamilton District Att^y in place of John Duer—*his particular friend*. With many other appointments & removals from trifling offices—I hope Beasely has been able to show good cause at Washington why he ought to retain his office & that he has some powerful friend there to uphold

* *Pres. Jackson was often called by his military title.*

NEW YORK, APRIL 30th 1829

him.—Mr. M^cLean of Delaware is app^d envoy to the Court of S^t James—he is a very fine fellow & will do honor to his Country. Edward Livingston—has been offered M^r Brown's place with a given time to make up his mind on the subject.—I think he will accept, but it is doubtfull. He is now a Senator from Louisianna—rather aged—& not very rich, as M^r Montgomery's Estate, which is left to his daughter, does not promise to be very large.—I beg my kindest regards to your brother & am ever affectionately my d^r I

Y^s

H. B. J^r

Paulding will (it is said) keep his office.—

NEW YORK, MAY 31st 1829

New York, May 31st 1829.

MY DEAR IRVING:—

About ten days ago your brother the Judge received a very polite letter from M^r Secretary Van Beuren in which he states it to be the intention of the government to offer you the appointment of Secretary of Legation in London, and is desirous of ascertaining whether you would accept the office.—The Judge & Ebenezer upon a thorough deliberation of the proposal were of opinion that you would not, or rather that you ought not to refuse, in which I entirely agree with them; accordingly an answer was written to the Honble Secretary to this effect,—and I think there is no doubt that the appointment will be made, unless a pledge be required for your acceptance, which your brothers probably would not think themselves authorized to make. When Van Beuren wrote the Letter, the Pres^t had not been consulted but as both M^r Lean (the Minister) and himself were desirous

NEW YORK, MAY 31st 1829

of offering you the appointment he entertained no doubt that he would acquiesce so soon as they were enabled to state that it would be accepted.—Thus the matter stands at present, but as I am among those heretics who place no manner of reliance upon politicians & their promises, I wait to see the commission officially engrossed.—

I hope you will agree with us that it is not a thing to be rejected, especially as it is offered without any solicitation on your part, a point which I shall take good care to make known.—It is certain an honorable mark of confidence in you by the government, and they can have no possible design beyond that of manifesting to the world the high regard entertained by your Country for your character.—I do not know Mr. M^cLean but I am well assured that he is a gentleman; his character & abilities are certainly of the first rank: it is not his intention (I am told) to carry out his family. He will probably embark in the Constellation

NEW YORK, MAY 31st 1829

from Norfolk, in the beginning of July.—Should you be averse to the restraint which the duties of the office might impose upon you, you have an able assistant in your brother Peter, so that in truth it may be only a nominal affair. But after all there will be no obligation on your part to retain the office longer than a year, should you find it in any manner embarrassing or disagreeable. In short there appears to me every reason in favor of your taking the appointment and I earnestly hope you will see the matter in the same light that we do.

You may wonder after all how the devil M^r Secretary Van Beuren came to think of the thing, although in fact it was precisely what he ought to have thought of. But the idea did [not] originate in the capacious mind of the Secretary; it came from our jolly f^r Jack Nicolson.—In writing a familiar epistle to his friend the high functionary the worthy little fellow suggested that your appointment

NEW YORK, MAY 31st 1829

to the office in question would redound to the honor & glory of the administration & his advice was acted upon forthwith.—

Jack is as usual, the very glass of fashion, & as usual believes himself to stand upon the very verge of matrimony, and although it is the hundred & ninety ninth time that he has believed himself to be in this perilous predicament I do believe that he is in more real danger in the present case, than in all his former escapes put together.—The Lady has not actually yielded, but her friends & advisers have signified intimations of a very alarming nature & I think the little man will be fairly enlisted for the rest of his days in the cares of working for posterity.—The Lady is in every respect a suitable match & has moreover some forty or fifty thousand dollars in the bargain.—

Harry Ogden is officiating as Cashier to the new Collector S Swartwout; but he tells me that he intends to take the first opportunity

NEW YORK, MAY 31st 1829

of escaping from the slavery of his office & return to his old station at the Post Office.—

Paulding has just put forth a new work "Tales of the old Woman, by a doubtful Gentleman." It ought rather to have been "Tales by an old Woman" &c. He has certainly lost the art of writing; he seems to be troubled with a sort of mental dispepsia, every thing turns acid that passes through his mind —& yet Paulding is a man of genius.

I take it for granted that after working up your Spanish materials, you mean to rest from your labors.—I hope it is your intention to follow the track of American discovery & perform for Cortes &c what you have done for Columbus. Having done so, you will have an unquestioned right to do as you please & to write when you please in which case I should not be surprized if you were to produce a work of greater merit than any that you have written.—

The Papers say that Beasley's place is to

NEW YORK, MAY 31st 1829

be given to a M^r Winchester of Baltimore & that Frank Ogden will certainly get the Consulate at Liverpool.—

The Ship that is to carry out M^r McLean (it is said) will carry out M^r Rives & his family—to France. M^r Rives is a personage rather distingué in the circle at Washington; he is a very sensible little man, but cannot speak French.—Lee—that scape grace formerly of our acquaintance—is to be the Consul at Algiers—It must be confessed that his qualifications, are well fitted to please that kindred potentate.—

We—that is my Wife & the six children are quite well.—We intend to pass the season at Northampton in Massachusetts in order to be near the two boys, who are placed at the Round Hill School.*

I am happy to tell you that my troubles in Montreal Bank Stock & sunken lots of ground are nearly at an end—having sold the last,

* *George Bancroft and J. G. Cogswell were the principals.*

NEW YORK, MAY 31st 1829

and being about to sell the first which is now
at par.—

Ever my d^r Irving Y^r

H. B. J^r

NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 6th 1829

New York, November 6th 1829.

MY DEAR IRVING:—

I beg to make you acquainted with the bearer M^r S F B Morse, a gentleman for whom I entertain very cordial feelings of regard.—He is, as you probably know, one of our best painters & has essentially contributed both by the aid of his pencil & his pen to advance the state of the arts among us.

The National Academy of design in New York is an institution which has done much good, although its name is rather pompous. M^r Morse was the founder of it & continues to be its president—he has for several years delivered courses of lectures to a large class of artists & students on the theory & practice of his art, which, with the annual exhibition of works by native artists have produced highly beneficial effects. He has moreover claims upon my kindness, from his being a fellow member of a little club of intelligent individuals who are in the habit of meeting at each

NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 6th 1829

others houses for social & conversational purposes. His design in revisiting Europe is to pass into Italy & devote a twelvemonth to the study & imitation of the best Masters & to gather new materials for his courses of lectures.—He expresses a strong desire to become acquainted with you, & I think you will find him to be an amiable and intelligent man.—

The last letter that I received from you was dated Alhambra May 23^d. Since then I have heard of your progresses & of your safe arrival in London. By the reports of persons who saw you in Paris, you were looking in fine health, (& one Lady writes) younger than you did when she last saw you in New York!—

I think you did right in accepting the place offered to you so handsomely by the Gov^t but it grieves me to think that by doing so, your intention of coming home must now be postponed. If you find your official duties irk-

NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 6th 1829

some, there can be no obligation on your part to continue in the performance of them longer than a twelvemonth, and if you really intend to cross the Atlantic, I hope you will see fit to resign after that period, or obtain leave of absence for an indefinite period.—I am very anxious to hear from you in London & to learn how you are pleased.—Everybody here, thinks you ought to have been the Minister.

We returned to the City about a month ago, after passing the summer months in Northampton & Newport rather agreeably.

M^r. Tavish was here lately, to send his oldest son in the charge of Capt Rogers, to be placed at some great Catholic school near Liverpool—All the members of our old society, including Governor Johnston, dined together at Paulding's and drank to your health and prosperity.

Poor Paulding was detained nearly the whole of the summer at Washington to give

NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 6th 1829

testimony in the case of a Doctor Watkins. He would have resigned his office if he could have afforded the sacrifice.—Harry Ogden is still in the Custom House—Kemble is at Washington—Renwick busy in the election of a new president for Columbia College in the room of D^r Harris recently deceased.—I wish he could be the man—but Judge W^m Duer, with a wife & ten children wants the place & his friends, I think, will have influence enough to obtain it. The only competitor at present is the senior Prof: D^r M^cVicar, who I believe is willing to discharge the duties of both offices without any augmentation of salary, for the good of the Institution.

Your brother Ebenezer is very well. He had a fall from his Horse, some weeks since which might have been a very serious business—as it was, he escaped with some contusions, but no material injury.—

Pray give me some news of the literati & what they are doing in London. I am anxious

NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 6th 1829

to see Moore's Life of Byron & I hope his memory will be able to reproduce all that was good of that extraordinary creature's autobiography.—

ever my d^r I devotedly Y^r

H. B.

(I inclose an Epistle from Capt Jack. His love affair, as usual, evaporated in smoke.—)

NEW YORK, MARCH 23^d 1830

New York, March 23^d 1830.

At last my dear Irving I have made up my mind to revisit Europe, and am busily engaged in placing my affairs upon such a footing, as may enable me to remain abroad for two three or four years, unless I find things there very different from what I am prepared to expect. Our present intention is to take our departure in the Havre packet of the 10th May & proceed directly to Paris.—

My children are now sufficiently advanced in life to be benefited by a residence in Europe, & we ourselves, have not yet passed that melancholy crisis of existence when novelty ceases to be enjoyment. As to myself I might affect to believe that the period is still very distant, but I am unwilling to trust to such a hazardous delusion.—I am tired with the sameness of this nutshell circle of existence, & unless I break from it now, I shall be doomed to walk in it to the end of my days.

To my poor Wife, a change of residence

NEW YORK, MARCH 23^d 1830

cannot fail to be attended with the most desirable consequences—besides the novelty of seeing Europe, it is a positive blessing to escape from the thralldom of the nursery & kitchen in this free & independent City.—So that you perceive my dear Irving that we have convinced ourselves by a very impartial course of reasoning that it would be folly to postpone our expedition to a period when we should be no longer capable of enjoying it.

Our first object will be to place the children in the best possible manner.—The boys are now past the age of ten & eleven & are pretty well advanced in latin &c, with some knowledge of french.—As you are no doubt able to give me advice on this subject, I need not tell you [how] glad I shall be to receive it.—The girls are all younger—the eldest about nine, & so downwards to the age of two years.—

I cannot tell how long after our arrival,

NEW YORK, MARCH 23^d 1830

it may be in my power to have the gratification of taking you and your brother Peter by the hand—it certainly shall not be long happen what may—

Possibly you may be disposed to come over to Paris, but at all events we hope to be in England sometime in the approaching summer.—My mother in law M^{rs} Carson is to accompany us, and I am under a promise to take her to visit her native land as soon as our affairs will permit. She has brothers residing in London—the elder (?) Mr. Gilbert Neville Neyle, is or was a lawyer, & I believe has his apartments at Lincoln's inns. He was formerly chairman of the Stamp Office.

M^{rs} C has not seen him since she left England, a period of some thirty or forty years past.

Before we take our departure I will write to you again—Moore's life of Byron has been published about a week—it is very much liked & promises to have a great run.—

NEW YORK, MARCH 23^d 1830

My Wife begs to present her regards to
you.— ever aff^y Y^r

H. B. J^r

M^r Brevoort begs me to thank your
brother & to say that the veil is all that
could be wished.

PARIS, JUNE 17th 1830

Paris, June 17th 1830.

MY DEAR IRVING:—

We arrived here on the 8th & both our voyage to Havre & journey here were performed without a single disagreeable incident. I have been incessantly employed since our arrival in visiting & examining schools & until yesterday I could find none that pleased me.—I hope in a few days to settle the children & afterwards to be more at leisure. I have two boys of my own, and a third, the son of our friend James King—and three girls, to dispose of.—The moment I am rid of my cares I will think of some plan of living—at present we are at the Hotel de Hollande Rue de la Paix.—The weather since our arrival has been cold & wet—so that the first impression of things in this noisy capital has been any thing but pleasing upon M^{rs} B and her Mother.—Would that you & Peter had been here to comfort us!—

I received y^r letter by D^r de Butts & he came with us in the S Boat to Rouen—since

PARIS, JUNE 17th 1830

then I have not seen or heard from him. The great Christopher Heye is here, and has given me very agreeable accounts of you. Capt Jack Nicolson came with us—he is lo[d]ged in the Hotel with M^r Bremner in the Rue d' Artois & seems to have entered into the full enjoyment of all the good things of Paris.

Young M^r Storrow has very kindly assisted me in finding suitable schools for the children & the Ladies of his family seem very amiably disposed to those of mine.—

I wish it were in my power, to set forward within the hour to join you in London. Nothing could contribute so much to my happiness as the pleasure of once more meeting you—but at present I see no prospect of doing so. Possibly you may be at liberty to visit Paris shortly.—Pray write to me at your leisure. My kindest regards to Peter. I am

My dear I

ever Aff^r Y^r

H. BREVOORT, J^r

PARIS, JUNE 17th 1830

Pray address to Mess^{rs} Willis & C^o—I wrote a line to you on Monday, but it seems that it was not in time for the B[ritish] Amb[assador's] dispatches.

PARIS, JULY 8th 1830

Paris, July 8th 1830.

MY DEAR IRVING:—

We are now comfortably settled in the lodgings N^o 14 Boulevard Montmartre, lately occupied by M^r & M^{rs} Codman.—They are small but M^{rs} Brevoort thinks she can give you very humble accommodation & desires that you will upon your arrival, take a look at a little bit of an apartment that she has at y^r disposal.—We have an indifferent cook & content ourselves with ordinary fare; and the entire seclusion in which we live, will exactly suit your views of retirement.—Pray let me know as early as possible when you* may expect you to arrive here.

M^{rs} Carson is disposed to postpone her visit to England until the Autumn, and M^{rs} B is unwilling to leave here† in Paris alone. I am therefore not disposed to let the season pass away without stirring about a little.—It would exactly suit me to make an

* This, of course, should be "we."

† Her.

PARIS, JULY 8th 1830

excursion to Switz^d & the Rhine & return to Paris through the Neitherlands,* stopping only to see a few principal objects, so as to perform the tour within the period of six weeks.—Of course I am resolved to stay here, rather than travel alone. Might not this scheme prove agreeable to you, and if so, it would give me the greatest happiness to pass so much of our time together.

The boys & two of the girls are now at school.—We have left at home two little girls of 2 & 4 years old.—I see that time will be required before we can become reconciled to our new mode of life and forget what we have left at home.

I regret that the life you been obliged to adopt, proves at variance with your taste & inclination. I was afraid that official nonsense & stupidity would disgust you, but the time cannot be distant when you will be free. By this time, it must be pretty well ascer-

* *Sic!*

PARIS, JULY 8th 1830

tained that our commercial relations with England cannot be put upon the footing we desire—and your most excellent chief will be glad to be released from a station, which on many accounts, must have proved very comfortable and perplexing.—But when we meet, these things can all be talked over at our leisure and we may be permitted to indulge ourselves in speculating upon the future, by building a snug castle in some retired part of the good State of New York, where we may glide quietly down the stream of life together, sheltered from all annoyances.—In these visions, your brother Peter is of course entitled to a full participation.

I am not at all surprised at his preference to France. The formality & sulkiness of John Bull in the midst of his cloudy capital, must present a sad contrast to the sans soucie* habits & enjoyments of France.—I saw M^r Goodhue yesterday for a few moments; he

* *Sic*!

PARIS, JULY 8th 1830

gave me good accounts of you.—Jack Nicolson is at lodgings in the same House with M^r Bremner No. 10 rue d' Artois—he has exhausted nearly all the sights of Paris & talks of a journey to Italy.—He has received attentions from some of the magnates here, which has proved a great comfort to his notions of enjoyment. As he cannot speak one word of French, he has provided himself with a manual in which french words are tortured into english sounds, & he fancies that he gets along pretty well.—The weather has become more settled, it does not now rain more than twice or three times a day, which must be Paradise compared with London.

With my kindest regards to your brother
I am my dear Irving most affec^t Y^s

HENRY BREVOORT J^r

PARIS, SEPTEMBER 25th 1830

Paris, September 25th 1830.

Nº 14 Boulevard Montmartre.

MY DEAR IRVING:—

M^{rs} Carson is very much troubled in not being able to obtain satisfactory information of her brother M^r Gilbert N Neyle.—The answer to the letter which you were the bearer of, merely states that he was absent from London on account of ill health, but says nothing further.—Now if you can spare the time, I beg you will call at his residence Nº 35 Upper Harley Street, and let him know that his sister has addressed two letters to him since her arrival in Paris & is desirous of knowing whether they have been received; but should he not have returned, I wish you would devise some means of ascertaining where he is & how a letter should be addressed to reach him. It will not I think, be difficult to find some person of his acquaintance in London as he must be well known.—He has held the place of Chairman of the Stamp Office

PARIS, SEPTEMBER 25th 1830

& until within the last two or three years, has constantly resided at his own apartments N^o 11 New Buildings Lincoln's Inn.—He must therefore be known to many persons of the profession, especially as he has been extensively engaged as a conveyancer for nearly forty years past.—

If your engagements will not permit you to make these inquiries, pray employ someone to exert his best endeavours to do so.

Your brother has not yet arrived.—Mr. Storror thinks he is at Havre.

We have seen M^r & M^{rs} M^c L & would have been glad to have seen more of them, but they have been so fully occupied in going the rounds, that it has only been possible to get a glance at them.—

Political affairs here seem by no means settled, a change of the Ministry is on the eve of taking place—and the people seem resolved upon obtaining some direct & immediate benefit from *their* revolution—thus

PARIS, SEPTEMBER 25th 1830

far, they have been rather depressed by it.—
I fear the public men are by no means equal
to discharge the duties that have devolved
upon them & that many changes must take
place before affairs may assume an air of
tranquillity.—

We all desire to be remembered to you and
I am

My d^r Irving

ever Y^r

H. BREVOORT J^r

PARIS, JANUARY 4th 1831

Paris, January 4th 1831.

MY DEAR IRVING:—

There is an American lady here, a M^{rs} Brooks from the island of Cuba with an Epic poem and a letter of introduction to you from M^r George Barclay.—She has set her heart upon submitting her cantos to your inspection and it was her intention to present them in person, but having changed her purpose of crossing the Channel in the winter season, her brother M^r Gowan is to take them in charge to be delivered to you. I was induced to call upon her at the pressing instance of M^r Cooper, who seems much interested in promoting her views, and finding her bent upon appealing to your judgment, I yielded to her urgent request to write you a line in behalf of her poem.—

I endeavoured as delicately as possible to repress her hopes of immortality & told her that she overrated your influence with the publishers who were generally a very hard hearted race of men, but all to no purpose.—She

PARIS, JANUARY 4th 1831

declares her object to be fame rather than lucre, and indulges the hope that you may find her Epic worthy of being placed in the hands of some eminent bibliopole, who will undertake to usher it into the world in an appropriate manner.—

Now as it is well known that you are often called upon by our aspiring countrymen to lend them your aid in producing their tragedies upon the boards of old Drury, or in procuring for them the honors of the Royal Society, I cannot doubt your willingness in promoting the humble designs of M^{rs} B, or rather Sylvia Occidentalis which I think is the name she assumes in the title page of her Epic.—

We are all pretty well, anxiously looking for the epoch of our family troubles & the return of spring—M^{rs} Brevoort desires me to be kindly remembered & little Metie begs to wish you a happy New Year.—M^{rs} Beasley has carried away your brother to Havre much to our regret.—I dined with them the day previous to their departure and was glad to

PARIS, JANUARY 4th 1831

find your brother in good spirits & much recovered from his severe attacks of headaches. I have very little Parisian news to offer. Capt Jack had the honor of being presented to the Royal Family on New Year's day in grand costume; his reception was very gracious.—We have been much amused with the manner in which Madame Malibran has received her husband who arrived some weeks since from New York full of loyal affection for his cara sposa.—It seems that the Lady being otherwise provided, refused to admit her legal lord, and resolved to obtain a divorce forthwith.—She took council from Alderman Rosevelt, but finding him unable to assist her intentions, she placed herself under the advice & protection of General Lafayette, who at her suggestion carried her to the Hotel of M^r Rives in the hope that our government had entrusted him with powers to redress her grievance.—It is only a short time since that she could be persuaded to reappear at the

PARIS, JANUARY 4th 1831

Opera—but still persists in keeping the Monsieur at arms length & will not suffer his approaches under any pretext whatever.—

You must have observed the unceremonious manner in which the Chamber of Deputies legislated the old general out of his great office.—Although he seemed to yield with the best possible grace in laying down the command of the National Guards, it is certain that his pride has been mortified & his feelings deeply wounded.—The Citizen King attempted to soothe matters by offering to him the title of honorary Commander in Chief of the N G for life, to which the veteran “of the two hemispheres” replied—“How would your Majesty be pleased with the title of honorary King of the French”—M^r G W Lafayette says that the gratitude of America survived fifty years, while that of France became extinct in five months.

I have not heard from you since 2^d of November—pray write & tell me how you

PARIS, JANUARY 4th 1831

are. Has your little volume been published—
it has not reached Paris. Ever my dear Irving
affectionately Y^s

H. B.

PARIS, MARCH 7th 1831

Paris, March 7th 1831.

MY DEAR IRVING:—

The shattered state of my nerves barely permits my hand to guide the pen, or I would have told you before of my happy deliverance from the misery that has embittered so many of the best years of my existence.—The *cause* is completely irradiated, and I begin to realize the belief of enjoying a total exemption from suffering for the remainder of life, but it requires time to restore my system to a healthy action. My recovery has been a good deal retarded by the necessity of undergoing a second operation about three weeks after the principal one.—I can now walk a mile or two without bearing about me the intolerable burthen which not only preyed upon my spirits but was wearing out my constitution. When we next have the happiness of meeting I hope both my outward & my inward man will exhibit to you an entire renovation. Thus far for myself—the second chapter of events

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thank God—has not been less fortunate. I am rejoiced to tell you that my wife gave birth to a fine frenchman—about two weeks ago & is now nearly recovered from her pains & penalties.

I hope your health is now reestablished & that the term of your bondage is near at hand. Our present design is to pass the summer in Switzerland leaving Paris early in July. Why not join us? I do not believe that you could dispose of two months more agreeably.—

The state of public affairs is so lowering that one cannot form any project beyond the autumn—by that time I think the crisis will have passed & we may be enabled to look a little into the future.—I am resolved to see Italy before I return to the U States, but I fear my wife will not be able to make up her mind to leave the elder children in Paris & to take them with us would be highly injurious. I would be glad to send them into Spain for six or eight months, but who can I get in whom

PARIS, MARCH 7th 1831

I should place confidence to take charge of them.—Nicolson must have arrived in London, and the opening of his volume will supersede any remarks that I might otherwise make on public affairs.—Tell him that I received his letter from Brussels & that I wish him all manner of enjoyment during his sojourn in England.

My mind like yours is engrossed with the great events now in progress throughout Europe.

No reliance can be placed upon the present state of affairs here.—The Government is too feeble to stand long & every change will tend towards anarchy.—The higher & middle classes of frenchmen are too vicious to appreciate the blessings of a free Government.—The Stocks have had a terrible fall to-day & it is believed that the fall is owing to some news that has not yet been suffered to transpire. The commerce & the industry of France are almost ruined & the depressed state of her

PARIS, MARCH 7th 1831

funds shews plainly enough that those who possess the wealth of the nation have no confidence in the existing state of things. The Gov^t will not be able to make a loan, nor to even negotiate the bon[s] royals much longer, unless public confidence is restored.—An issue of paper money is far from being an improbable resort, especially in case of war.—It seems pretty well understood that the Gov^t is resolved to put down any fresh disturbance in Paris by force of the bayonet & a large body of troops of the line are collected, as it is believed, for that purpose.—The Poles are fighting gallantly, but I fear in vain.—The Italian insurrection is spreading and gaining force.—But the question that interests me most at this moment is the fate of the Reform bill.—If it passes I think it will infuse fresh blood into the veins of old England & have a happy influence upon the affairs of the whole world. England under the direction of her corrupt oligarchy has been the great disturber

PARIS, MARCH 7th 1831

of the world for more than half a century.—But I fear the Bill will not be carried. In that case the reformers will be led forward by the élite of the kingdom & revolution must follow. The supporters of the bill labour under the great difficulty of not being able to lay before the house the actual state of the case, but thus far they have the advantage in argument against their opponents. None of the speeches however are distinguished by an extensive grasp of mind. They do not remind one of those giants of old Burke Fox Pitt, &c.—I hope Jeffrey will do justice to the high character which he so justly in my opinion merits. Mr. Baring (I suppose) cannot get his peerage from the present Ministry.—Pray write to me on the subject—any and every sort of intelligence.—What a tower of strength the Ministry have lost in Brougham.—

I am a lover of peace—and my prayer is that the cause of national freedom may triumph throughout the world.—The impulse

PARIS, MARCH 7th 1831

that has been given to it by the late events must prevail.—

You have done enough for the poem & I beg you will give yourself no further trouble about it, or its author.—

We have taken lodgings for the next four months at 62 Rue du Faubourg S^t Honoré—a little above the Hotel of the British Ambassador, on the opposite side of the street. They are very comfortable & we shall have plenty of room.—

M^{rs} B & M^{rs} Carson present their best regards.—The little ones bear you in remembrance.—They all chatter french with more facility than I do.—

I fear my hand writing will puzzle you.—
ever affect^y Y^s

H. B.

PARIS, JUNE 30th 1831

Paris, June 30th 1831.

MY DEAR IRVING:—

I returned from Italy about two weeks since, quite reestablished in health & most happy in finding my wife & the little people well.—The rapidity of my journey, extending to Naples & Pæstum, prevented me from having much communication with the living. I however found time to see nearly all that remains of the dead and to fill my mind with a new world of associations for future reflexion. So entirely had I become absorbed by lofty speculations upon the olden time that a return to the common realities of life quite disturbed my sensibilities. Ten days suffering by the Grippe or influenza soon made me sensible of my mortal responsibilities & levelled all my grand dreams of antiquity. Every one of us in turn yielded to this vile distemper—with the exception of M^{rs} C, who is still severely indisposed, we are all getting well.

My personal adventures in Italy possess no

PARIS, JUNE 30th 1831

sort of interest.—I met with some of the Bull family with whom I associated very agreeably and was particularly fortunate in being preceded everywhere by that ready reckoner the Marchioness of Connyngham who established a tariff at the Inns very advantageous to my purse.—I am now preparing to set out in quest of fresh adventures in a tour through Switzerland & down the Rhine; my chief object is to give my poor wife a holiday from domestic cares.—We shall take our departure in about a week, leaving M^r Carson in charge of the two youngest children the elder ones being all at school. Upon our return, about the middle of September, I have projected a visit of a month to England with M^r Brevoort & M^r Carson, after which we will sit down quietly for the winter in Paris.—I have received a letter from our friend Jack Nicolson recounting his exploits in the United Kingdom & announcing his speedy departure for America. The little man appears to have

PARIS, JUNE 30th 1831

enjoyed himself to the very extent of his faculties & returns home happy in having passed his year abroad amidst such stirring events.

So you are now left sole guardian of our nation's honor and welfare *near* his gracious Majesty's Court of S^t James! I imagine you are not ambitious of being burdened with these mighty responsibilities & that you look forward impatiently for the time when you will be released from diplomatic bondage.—Who will succeed you?—

I hope M^r M^cLane will accept his appointment. His wisdom will go far in helping to steer the vessel of state in a safe course.—

Pray write me a line & let me know whether your brother Peter has or is to join you.—

All is quiet in Paris, but I fear war with Russia cannot long be avoided. M^r Brevoort & M^r Carson desire to be remembered to you & I am ever most aff^y Y^r

H. B.

PARIS, JUNE 30th 1831

Who is the writer of the article in the Quarterly on Moore's Life of Byron. Poor Byron. The odour of his deeds in Venice is as fresh as ever; everyone has some tale to rehearse disgraceful to his name. I was however much pleased with a highly characteristic trait of his feeling at Ferrara told to me by an eye witness who accompanied him in his first visit to what is called the prison of Tasso. Upon entering this damp dungeon he gave orders to be left undisturbed & actually passed an hour & a half in solitary contemplation.—

I was much pleased with the article (yours I presume) on Slidell's book—It was well merited & cannot fail to please him.—

I forgot to tell you what I know must interest you, that *our* fds the Douglas are here, committing daily atrocities against decorum, with the most entire unconsciousness of design. We keep as clear of them as possible. M^r C* is here, the Jupiter Tonnans† of

* *James Fenimore Cooper.*

† *Sic.*

PARIS, JUNE 30th 1831

his little circle of hearers & admirers. His book is nearly finished. The principal scene of action is laid at Venice which will enable him to display his nautical lore. But his main object, he declares to be, the striking a blow at the aristocracy of England, through that of Venice. He and Paulding will never rest until they have laid that old sinner England upon her back, exposed to the derision of the whole world. It is an enterprise worthy of Don Quixotte.

PARIS, JULY 8th 1831

Paris, July 8th 1831.

MY DEAR IRVING:—

I wrote to you a few days since by the Amb.^d bag.—You have probably heard the particulars of the Treaty of indemnity signed on the 4th with the F Government, but as M^r R* called yesterday and communicated the principal points contained in it, I think you will be glad to receive intelligence from official authority.

The F G engages to pay us twenty five millions of francs as a compensation in full for all claims arising from Sequestrations Confiscations Captures Burning property at Sea & Condemnations in Port. Payment is to be made in six equal annual installments bearing interest at the rate of four per centum from the date of the ratification, which will, with the principal augment the indemnity to about Twenty eight Millions and a half.—Claims of our citizens for supplies to the F Gov^t

* *W. C. Rives, the American Minister.*

PARIS, JULY 8th 1831

at S^t Domingo are not included in this amount.

The Treaty prescribes no principle of distribution amongst the claimants, either by a pro rata payment or otherwise. This point was designedly left open in order that our Gov^t might be enabled to distinguish those claims especially entitled to a full liquidation from those of a less meritorious character. But it is the opinion of M^r R grounded upon documents in his possession & unpublished despatches to our Gov^t by M^r Gallatin, that the sum to be received will be sufficient to pay every bona fide claim arising from the causes before enumerated.—It fully appears from those authorities that the Antwerp, Holland & S^t Sebastian claims, including those for property burnt at Sea do not exceed in amount the sum of Fourteen Millions—& that the claims for condemnations in violation of public law & existing treaties, will not upon strict investigation be found to exceed Fifteen

PARIS, JULY 8th 1831

Millions.—Indeed most of these claims have all along been considered hopeless, as a great portion of them are well known to be for the property of aliens covered by Am: names & documents—but it has been the obvious policy of our Gov^t to swell the total amount to as large a nominal sum as was possible.—

The Beaumarchais claim is to be settled in full by the payment of one & a half Millions of f^s but as it has no connexion with the other claims it will probably be liquidated separately.

The F Gov^t agree to relinquish all claims & obligations arising from their construction of the 8th article of the Louisiana Treaty, upon condition, subject to the will of congress, that French Wines shall be admitted by us at a reduced rate of duty for a period of ten years.

As an equivalent, they stipulate for the admission of our long staple Cotton at a rate

PARIS, JULY 8th 1831

of duty not higher than that now imposed upon the short staple Cotton.

Those are the essential points embraced in the Treaty & it can hardly be doubted that when the many difficulties standing in the way are known & understood M^r R's services will justly entitle him to the gratitude of his country.—The ability with which he has discharged his trust may be estimated by comparing the sum to be obtained with that reported by the Commission of the Deputies which was only ten millions of fr^s—A very mistaken idea has prevailed in the U States that the late revolution was an event favourable to the recovery of our claims, more especially as our f^d Lafayette might have it in his power to interpose his influence in obtaining their adjustment under the new Gov^t. But the truth is, that with the best dispositions in our behalf the old General has never had any real influence & even if he had possessed it, any overtures from him would

PARIS, JULY 8th 1831

have been regarded with distrust as coming from one anxious to requite obligations & predisposed to our interests.—He has in fact had nothing to do either directly or indirectly in the settlement of our differences.

The Mission of M^r. R has been one of continued vexation & anxiety, and has given him a sufficient taste of diplomacy for the remainder of his life. He assures me that although he has for months retired in despair, he always arose with fresh hopes of success resolved by untiring perseverance to accomplish his task.—He had nearly brought matters to a conclusion under the old Gov^t.— This fact has been a prevailing argument in his negotiations with the existing Gov^t, but he has found them by no means so ready to admit the injustice of the acts of the Imperial Spoiler,* as their predecessors.—

In short the worthy little Minister seems like one relieved from a burthensome disease—

* *Napoleon Bonaparte.*

PARIS, JULY 8th 1831

& indeed he had almost worn himself into a consumption by the disappointments the anxieties & the vexations that beset him in his negotiations with this crafty Republican Monarchy.—

He intends to recreate himself by a visit to England & anticipates much pleasure in renewing his acquaintance with you, which happened some sixteen years ago whilst we were the subjects of the Dowager Mad. Bradish.—

We are busily employed in preparations for our journey to Switzerland & intend to set out for Geneva tomorrow afternoon, being all recovered from the influenza.—

Renwick has written to you about the embryo tome, which I hope you will be able to dispose of to some of the Bibliopoles in London.—

I forgot to mention upon my return from Italy that I have *convinced myself* of the originality of my Madonna.—If the Madonna

PARIS, JULY 8th 1831

del Gran duca in the Pitti Palace is by the hand of Raphael mine is most assuredly, though differing in composition, of the same family, & fully equal to it in every point of excellence.—I wish Newton could see it.—To possess a fine picture by Raphael I know is reckoned a little extravagant, but as mine was found at Angostura, where it had been known time out of mind in the possession of a Spanish family of rank reduced to poverty by the revolution, the probabilities in favor of its originality are much encreased. All the Connoisseurs have confirm[ed] my opinion.—By the by I gave a line of introduction to a very agreeable young German some time ago, which he will present to you within ten days. He is every way worthy of y^r acquaintance & will not require any troublesome civilities.

M^{re} B begs her remembrance to you & y^r brother & I am ever my d^r I Y^e

H. B.

PARIS, JULY 8th 1831

I saw Kenny's exposition in the Lit: Gazette; it deserves to be printed on silk & framed as a phisyological curiosity.

PARIS, MARCH 25th 1832

Hotel de Hollande, 16 Rue de la Paix.

March 25th (1832).

MY DEAR IRVING:—

M^{re} Carson leaves us tomorrow malgré the cholera on a visit to her brother, N^o 35 Upper Harley Street. We have some idea of following her early in May to spend a month in England.

I have rec^d a letter from Renwick (feb 18) He observes that he had paid Col A's* bill of exchange for the postage of his MS but had heard nothing further of his offspring. I suppose it arrived at Liverpool during Ogden's absence. He fears you will not be able to find a publisher. It has occurred to me that a reference to Capt Edw: Sabine (the Sec: of the Royal Society) might be of use. He is a particular fd of the Professor's & entertains a very high idea of his talents & requirements. But I fear he is in Ireland.—

Does your friend M^r Rich undertake to

* Col. Thomas Aspinwall.

PARIS, MARCH 25th 1832

purchase books at the London public sales? If so, at what rate of commission—I may want a couple of hundred volumes, not rare ones, and I am unwilling to pay the book-selling prices. Pray mention my name to him & my project, that I may call upon him if I go to London.—

I saw you brother yesterday.—We are as usual. Monsieur Fellenberg writes very encouragingly of our little boys—they have he says, conquered the elementary difficulties of the german language.—I hope to see them in the course of the summer & unless anything happens to change my mind, I will leave them in Switzerland for three years. I presume that you are still with M^r Van Buren. His rejection by the Senate surprised me. It was a bold party step, but instead of crushing him it will only aid & advance his political views after the existing excitement has subsided.—The grounds of accusation assumed by his opponents were not sustained, nor would

PARIS, MARCH 25th 1832

they have been brought forward against any other nomination. I am no party man & hate the savage warfare that is waged by our politicians. I think therefore that I am the better able to judge of this transaction with impartiality. Everyone will appreciate the motives which led to his rejection.

I hope he will not return without paying a visit to the *faderland*. I can venture to assure him that he will be highly gratified.—Our entertaining chargé at the Hague told me that the Minister Verstolk of foreign affairs enquired particularly about M^r Van Buren's dutch name & claimed him as a descendant. It seems the Minister is very proud of the ancient colony of New Neitherlands.—

I saw M^r Van Buren's son several times whils't he was in Paris.—He went to Naples under the escort of your admirer* the Red Rover, who has gone to bother Sir W Scott

* *Miss Douglass.*

PARIS, MARCH 25th 1832

with her homage. I do not think M^r: J V B* is in much danger of being devoured by that she abomination.

We have here a genuine specimen of a character only produced in the United States. His name is Carr & he has the appointment of Consul from the U S. at the Court of Monnaco.† He has been in Paris these three months spending his outfit somewhat like a sailor who has received the wages of a long cruise.—I would not be in the least surprised if he were to find his way into S^t: Pelagé.—He is a tall gaunt Randolph looking figure, full of strange oaths which he utters lolling upon two or three chairs. He has killed two or three of his compatriots in duels & talks with perfect nonchalance of putting a man to death. I have only seen him once at our neighbor Mr. Pringlis, but have been afraid of making his acquaintance lest he might eat me.—I never saw such a mixture of the bar-

* *John Van Buren.*

† *Sic!*

PARIS, MARCH 25th 1832

barian & fine gentleman.—He has a taste for coins medals & pictures & has already purchased a collection.—He has caused a gold & silver medal to be struck; the first is intended to commemorate his marriage & upon the one side himself & his wife are represented kneeling before an altar, their hands united; the motto happiness & fidelity—on the reverse, is a sort of monogram formed with the initial letters of their names by which it is to be understood that a P has been turned into C. The silver medal is in honor of the birth of his daughter.—Paris he assured me was, to a man who has become thoroughly acquainted with it, the seat of the arts. “Everything Sir may be got in this City from a penny whistle to a german flute. I might have bought two venuses upon copper by *Tytian* for fourteen hundred francs; perhaps they were copies, but they were just as good as originals.”—He has left cards for many of the distinguished parisians, with his name & functions printed

PARIS, MARCH 25th 1832

in arabic which language he is studying for the court of Monaco. M^{rs} C is a very beautiful woman the daughter of a Judge Polk of Maryland.—She eloped with the Consul from a boarding school at the age of thirteen, carrying under her arm her school-books.—They give soirées & are in the most fashionable society that masked balls can afford.—But I think I have given you quite enough of him.

M^{rs} B has received a letter from a friend in New York giving an account of the sayings & doings of the fashionable world—a grand ball had just been given by some distinguished foreigners, at which several of our leading matrons presided under the style of “Lady patronesses.”

Lynch has succeeded in forming a very agreeable musical club, but as he limited the number of subscribers to only two hundred, it is thought too exclusive & the worthy don has been placarded for his

PARIS, MARCH 25th 1832

pains in getting up an elegant source of amusement.—

I do not ask when you have appointed to leave England, as I imagine you have not been able to fix upon the exact period.—M^r B desires to be remembered & I am faithfully

Y^r H. B.

FONTAINEBLEAU, JULY 28th 1832

Fontainebleau, July 28th, 1832.

MY DEAR IRVING:—

Although I have little to communicate, I cannot deny myself the pleasure of writing and rejoicing with you upon your arrival, and reception in the land of our nativity.—

The festival was a glorious burst of public freedom, and in reading an account of it, I fancied myself seated at the table, mingling with our loyal friends & townsmen in cheering & greeting your long expected return. I felt all alive to the delicacy of the position in which their kindness had placed you, and I doubted whether your nerves would carry you through a public speech, upon an occasion so trying—but go to, you are an orator, & may now aspire to the dignity of bourgo-master in Gotham!—No doubt you would have taken the will for the deed, to escape the pains & penalties which your illustrious doings had imposed upon you; but your misgivings of my gentle public, I think, fairly merited

FONTAINEBLEAU, JULY 28th 1832

this infliction of a triumph; and for once in your life I was not sorry to find you compelled to perform a part so repugnant to your nature.—

A letter from your brother Peter informs me that you were at Washington, and that you and your friend Newton had projected a grand summer tour. Would it were possible to join you!—I should propose setting off from Montreal in a bark canoe, and a dozen sturdy Canadian voyageurs, up the Utawa or Grand River, to the grand portage, by Lakes Huron & Superior. Thence return to Mackinac, & the Mississippi, by Lake Michigan; thence down to the mouth of the Ohio, & up that river to Pittsburg, & so onward to Lake Erie, and Niagara—making sundry detours in the course of the route. At Niagara we might rest awhile, & then take a fresh departure. My imagination is often haunted by past scenes of wild adventure, and lonely grandeur, in those regions of future empire; and I

FONTAINEBLEAU, JULY 28th 1832

should dearly like to live them over again with you.—All other modes of travelling are naught to that of the bark canoe; it unites every variety of comfort & pleasure, including the peril of being scalped in these times of Indian warfare.—Instead of accomplishing this high enterprise, I shall even be satisfied, when we meet again, to pilot you through the horrors of Hell Gate, or wander with you and our trusty & well beloved cronies Paulding Kemble, & the Supercargo, through our old highland haunts, frightening the stripling trout, and parodying the sports of the gentle Izaak.—But to descend from these cloudcapt visions. I am glad to hear that you mean to travel. Jonathan has grown up a stout gentleman since you knew him in the days of yore, and I think you will see many whimsical features in his crude character, unknown to you before.—Besides, you owe yourself a long holyday.—“And further, by these, my son be admonished: of making many books there is no

FONTAINEBLEAU, JULY 28th 1832

end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh."—So saith the Preacher, and I say, so be it!—

As to me & mine, we are still here, & are most grateful for the bounties bestowed upon us. Amongst these, which your célibataires may deem questionable, is the birth of a demoiselle—being the *Eighth* & positively the last performance. The number eight is fraught with good omens, an[d] albeit I am no prophet, it must abide. My poor wife was never so well before.—The little people are all quite well, and are beginning to fill up a fearful space in our retinue.

Your friend little Meta is at hand, teaching Constance to read, with an air of matronly importance. She has a vivid recollection of your gallantries, and desires me to say to M^r Irving, she wishes to kiss him, and to shew him her great doll in New York.—This prime pet was a cadeau from her friend the late M^r Jimmy Thompson.—

FONTAINEBLEAU, JULY 28th 1832

The boys are working hard at Hofwyl, and M^r Fellenberg speaks very encouragingly of them; & particularly so of James King. Our last letters left them full of the gayest anticipations. They were to set off upon the annual pedestrian tour through Switz^d on the first of August.—I hope to visit them in Sept^r.—and if they satisfy my expectations, I think I shall leave them with M^r F until the spring of 1834.—They will then have been there nearly three years, and will I trust have acquired habits of application and activity which may last them all their lives.—“He that hath many children, giveth pledges to the world against great enterprises.”—Although this dictum applieth not to me, I am willing to avail myself of it, as an apology for hiding my light. I have however worked very hard since I have been here, and I have filled my mind with many quaint scraps of learning & wisdom, from the fine old library in the Chateau. It has been my chief resource in

this quiet retreat, and I have really renewed, (I might say acquired) habits of application, which make me regret lost time, and the briefness of life.—I intend to carry home a substantial addition to my books, which I shall have the means of collecting th[r]ough-
[ou]t the winter.—My house is rather too small for my present stock of books and children, but I hope to be able to build another one of more suitable dimensions. I mention these projects to you, because you have a prescriptive right of fellowship in all that belongs to me.—And I will thank you to point out to me any valuable works that I may not be acquainted with.—Whilst I was in London in May (to fetch M^r Carson) I paid a visit to your friend Rich, and shall avail myself of his services in purchasing books.—It is my fixed determination, under providence, to go home in May.—The fear that I may not have the happiness of seeing my kind old parents is a constant cloud over my mind, and I am

FONTAINEBLEAU, JULY 28th 1832

always regretting the unavoidable necessity that compelled me to defer my departure until the next spring.

My Sister writes me that you had gladdened their hearts by a sociable visit; and your brother tells me that you were surprised to find him so little altered by the weight of so many years.—I beg you will give me an account of them, and a very particular one.—

We dread to hear the next accounts from N Y.—The reappearance of the Cholera in Paris & London is ascribed to the extreme heat of the weather & to eating quantities of unwholesome fruit.—What then may we not apprehend of N Y—where these causes of pestilence exist in a much greater degree.—The Therm: at this place rose to 90 & remained so for several days—but we have had few deaths. I think we owe our protection to the vast forest that surrounds us.—Where was Capt Jack when you arrived—By this time

FONTAINEBLEAU, JULY 28th 1832

he must be steering his gallant frigate for the Med^a

When you have an hours leisure, fail not to bestow it upon me & follow my example in saying a great deal of yourself & your affairs. You know how deeply I feel interested in these topics.—My good wife desires to be most cordially rememb: to you & by you, and I am

ever affec^d Y^r

H. BREVOORT.

PARIS, JANUARY 18th 1833

Paris, January 18th 1833.

The latest accounts we have of you my dear Irving left you at Washington, from whence you were expected to arrive in New York about Christmas.—I congratulate your safe return from exploring the wild regions of the far West. Did you shoot a Buffalo or capture a wild courser—Pike's description of this glorious sport on the boundless prairies has left indelible impressions upon my memory. America in every aspect is now sought after with eagerness in Europe more than ever. Such writers as Mother Trollope are a real benefit to us.—The point of their satire gives their works a circulation amongst readers who would never else have been tempted to bestow a thought upon us, whilst the truth remains and excites an interest to know more.—If I were not too much under the influence of the foul fiend—too insensible to publicity—& peradventure too conscious that I could not satisfy my own taste, I might be tempted by

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PARIS, JANUARY 18th 1833

the present curiosity of the public to ransac[k] my mind for adventures & scenes in America. I have read Paulding's "Westward ho" with delight. It is the best of his works & not in my opinion surpassed by that of any other competitor of the day. The work would have been more equal if Paulding had been as well acquainted with the West as he is with the ancient dominion.—It is in the hands of a french translator & will soon appear. I will send out a copy when it appears.—The D's fireside has had great success here.—Why did he not sell his Copyright in England; or is he insensible to filthy lucre.—

Have you seen Miss Martineau's Illustrations of Polit^l economy?—They are productions of the highest merit & will be universally read in the U States.—The last one on "French wines & politics" it is said has enlightened the inhabitants of the Tuileries to such a degree that it is feared by D^r Bowring & the other negociators of a commercial treaty

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with England, their labours will have been in vain.—

I perceive that you dined with Hamilton at Charleston. How is it possible for a man of honor to play such a game & reconcile it to his conscience? I should not be amazed to see him here, if he has the luck to escape from his perilous enterprise. Our last accounts from Charleston are to the 20th Dec^r. The president's well timed and triumphant proclamation was said to be making a deep impression. It is possible the minority may gain the ascendant, but knowing as I do the indomitable characters of the leaders & their unhallowed designs, I fear they will not capitulate without bloodshed.—They are no doubt taxed two or three hundred thous^d dollars per annum by the unequal operation of the tariff; this is the sum total of their grievances—all the other alleged causes of discontent are inventions to stir up the passions of the people.—Their patriotism must be strangely diluted to mag-

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nify this temporary evil into pretext for rebellion & separation.—How much more did the Yankees suffer during the embargo &c, &c.—But the real nature of their disaffection lies deeper to my certain knowledge. They have lost the field of ambition at Washington and they are bent upon creating one of their own. The productions of their lands are reduced to half their former value by the competition of the new states. The subdivision of property has reduced their plantations within paltry limits. They fear some decisive step will be taken to mitigate the condition of Slavery.—But above all they hate us with the rancour of Shylock for our prosperity & impute our gains to their losses. An ignorant population is easily inoculated by these plausible wrongs to deeds of unlawfulness and vengeance & I fear they will never rest until the union is dissolved.—Let them do it by fair means & not by violence if they can. How many states would be desirous of uniting in their wretched

PARIS, JANUARY 18th 1833

confederacy remains to be seen—not less than five or six I imagine.—They will be our Ireland without the shadow of the wrongs of that ill fated country to stimulate them to civil war.—You have no idea of the exultation of the friends of strong government over our impending difficulties on this side of the Water. The disgraceful elopement of one of the sisters of our family they say casts a deep stain upon our house. The Carlists &c, insist upon it that nothing but a legitimate King will restore us to order & prosperity. Johnny Bull is full of brotherly sympathy; he beholds new markets for his wares. The cause of freedom is belied & dishonored.—Perhaps I view the evil on the dark side—I shall be glad to have your opinion & shall rejoice in finding myself mistaken.—

I intend to return to New York in April or May if I can. My wife will remain another year & then bring back the children. At present we are all well & getting on very agreeably.

PARIS, JANUARY 18th 1833

M^{rs} Carson is in a state of great agitation on acc^t of her son who is an aid de camp to Hamilton & a furious nullifier. She wishes to return home.

Your brother Peter is very well, but as usual will not be tempted from his daily routine. His spirits are cheerful & I see him pretty often, we are near neighbors.—This will be conveyed to you by Col: Thorn who goes to the U S to take possession of his late son's fortune.—He carries with him sundry patent machines for fattening fowls which ought to entitle him to the Civic wreath from our worthy corporation of Aldermen.—

The animal is confined to a close dungeon & its food is injected by a sort of stomach pump which occasions instant syncope from which it does not recover for many hours. Thus within a fortnight it becomes as corpulent & fat as the late George the fourth of exclusive memory.

The Col's family remains at Florence under

PARIS, JANUARY 18th 1833

the protection of the Grand duke.—The young Marquis Carlo Torrigiania goes with the Col. He is a nobleman of the* one of the most illustrious houses of Tuscany & intends to travel through the U S. He seems a very agreeable person & I recommend him to your notice but do not give him a Letter. I have given him an Introduction to Renwick.—Old John Jacob Astor and I are again united in the bonds of intimacy. The old Gent finds me vastly entertaining, if one may judge from the frequency of his visits.—

Pray remember me to all our old fds—including your brother and the Genl—My wife salutes you.

I am my dear Irving, affec^d Y^s

H. BREVOORT.

**Sic*!

NEW YORK, JUNE 27th 1834

(*New York*) *College Green*, No. 3,
Thursday (June) 27th, (1834).

MY DEAR IRVING:—

By the latest Paris letters (15 May) our fds the Aspinwalls, were all getting well & preparing to embark by one of the next packets from Havre to N Y.

Ebenezer told me yesterday that you had not received any letters by the late arrivals from Peter;—you are, therefore ignorant of the misfortunes that have befallen the poor A's.—My wife writes to me. (26 Ap^l) [“] M^{rs} Cooper came to announce to me the death of M^{rs} A's youngest daughter, the little angelic creature of Constance's age whom we admired so much. She died of scarlatine & the eldest is now very ill.

What a trial for the poor parents just on the eve of departure, for they had almost engaged to go out with DePeyster.—Cooper is really a good man. He has been their consolation &

NEW YORK, JUNE 27th 1834

friend & talked to me with tears in his eyes of the event."

—May 5th "I have been the more uneasy from the distressing state of poor M^r A's family. They have lost both their youngest children of the ages of Meta & Constance with scarlatine. The eldest & second are not yet declared out of danger. I cannot imagine a more trying situation—M^r A and the Colonel, both ill in bed. They have two sisters of charity to nurse the children. Their affairs all in confusion in consequence of the projected voyage to America. M^r Irving has been several times to see me. He goes daily to assist & console the poor Aspinwalls."—

But as I have said before—they were all convalescent on the 15 May—and preparing to leave the scene of the affliction.

My wife and our little people were all pretty well. I would have written to you before, but I took it for granted you had rec^d letters

NEW YORK, JUNE 27th 1834

from Peter. His attentions to the poor A's have no doubt prevented him from writing to you.—

There is nothing new here. M^r Sec^r Livingston was at the Red R's soirée last night. He is in high spirits & full of fun. He hopes to embark for France before the end of the next month.—The R R had another lion of formidable dimensions at her gathering—M^r Trelawney—the same who has favoured the world with his veracious adventures under the title of “The Adv^r of a Younger Son.”—He is in appearance the beau idéal of his fd Byrons Corsair & looks as if he could kill & eat a man for breakfast.

He arrived a furious radical & has been greatly refreshed & confirmed by his travels in the Mississ: Ohio & in Virginia.—

I wish he would do violence to your tender admirer the R R—. . . . The more so, because by my being beguiled to her gathering, I am now in for a christening of a young

NEW YORK, JUNE 27th 1834

Munroe, on Saturday night.—One error my
dr f^d begets another.—I went to meet some
Carolina Ladies, who refused to go without
me.—

Write me a line, if you can,

ever affec^d Y^s

H. B.

Towards the end of the soirée—one of my
Carolina fds, a shrewd old Widow asked me
who was that little round old Gentleman, so
busily employed in returning the heel taps
left upon the side-board into the decanters?
Who should it be or could it be, but mine
honest crabbed f^d Billy Procter. His heart
smote him at beholding the waste & riot of his
dear adopted.—

NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 10th 1840

(New York) Monday, Nov. 10th 1840.

MY DEAR IRVING:—

M^r. & M^{rs}. Rives & M^r. Ligare have promised to dine with us on Thursday next at half past 4 O'clk, and I need not say how much pleasure it will give us to have you with us. As a further inducement I promise to give you some good music in the evening.— M^r. Cary, begs me to add, that he hopes for the pleasure of your company at one of his symposiums on Saturday next at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 4 O'clk.—

Pray let me know your will & pleasure. I saw M^r. Astor on Saturday, thinking he might know when you would be in Town. He says he hopes to see you as soon as possible, but cannot say what day it will be.—

I remain truly Y^s

HENRY BREVOORT, J^r

NEW YORK, JULY 1st 1841

New York, June, I mean July 1st [1841].

MY DEAR IRVING:—

I came down the River this morning from Beverly where we are all comfortably nestled in the old mansion of treason & have been wishing & wishing for the pleasure of seeing you.—I promised Gouv Kemble, to write to you, & to unite his entreaties with mine to induce you to leave your cottage & come up to the Highlands. About an hour ago I chanced to see our friend M^r West, who told me that he intended to pass the 4 July with you.

I told him of my designs upon you & invited him to come up with you. The easiest route is by the way of Cornwall & West Point. From the latter place you will always find a good Ferry Boat, to take you over to Nelson's landing which is one & a half miles from Beverly—or if you wish it, the Boat will carry you direct to the Beverly landing within a short half mile of us, through a beautiful

NEW YORK, JULY 1st 1841

shady walk. Or if you will write me a line P. Office Cold Spring, I will have *our* wagon in waiting for you at Nelson's landing.—

Now pray write to me, & tell me when we may hope to see you.—

I will not say anything to excite your expectations of Beverly, but I defy the S [un?] of New York to rival us in the rising of the Moon over the peak of the Sugar loaf. Yesterday evening we enjoyed this delight for the first time, & as you are acquainted with the motions of her Ladyship, pray come whilst she is in the humour of making her appearance over the Sugar loaf.—

Y^r most truly,

H. BREVOORT, J^r

BEVERLY, AUGUST 30th 1841

Beverly, Aug. 30th 1841.

MY DEAR IRVING:—

I was relieved from much anxiety by hearing from your brother when I was last in town, that you were nearly recovered from your severe indisposition, which however I was glad to learn had not been so alarming as was publicly reported. It is not improbable that your exposure to a burning sun in riding outside all the way from Honesdale to Newburg may have stirred up the bile & caused a feverous attack.

You will find enclosed a copy of verses addressed to you by one of your admirers, a theatrical moon-struck neighbor of mine, who has done me the honor of making me the medium of transmitting his effusion to your hands. He certainly has some claims to your notice, which you will readily admit after reading the quotation which follows, from his letter to me. "Circumstances which have come to my knowledge have induced me to

BEVERLY, AUGUST 30th 1841

believe that you are upon terms of intimacy with that beautiful author & amiable man, the first reading of whose lovely descriptions of simple unhacknied nature & home nurtured feelings thrilled me with ineffable delight, & every repetition has deepened the impression. I wish to present him with a token of a strangers esteem, and although when compared with his poetical genius it is but a mere trifle, I feel assured that his critical acumen will be tempered by the gentleness of his disposition." —Think of that Master Brown & weep!

My poor dear old father, as you know is now no more, and although his departure was an event long expected, I cannot express to you the deep and solemn impression which the dying moments of the good old man has left upon my heart.—

The long gun, to which I think you have a prescriptive right of inheritance, I now beg leave to offer you in the name of the family, hoping that you may live to enjoy its posses-

BEVERLY, AUGUST 30th 1841

sion as long, and as happily, as did its late worthy owner.—

My Wife & the girls beg me to offer their kindest remembrance and I am my dear Irving

Y^r affectionately

HENRY BREVOORT.

POEM SENT TO IRVING

*Presented to Washington Irvin[g] Esq.
By his ardent, though humble admirer
J. Mills Brown.*

PAST JOYS

I became affected, as I have here attempted to describe, while hearing a celebrated Vocalist rehearse the melody of "Erin, a smile and a tear in thine eye" for it recall'd to my feelings, the beautiful *singleness* of expression with which I have heard that Air breath'd by lips that are now motionless and cold:—two days previous to this I had received intelligence of the mortal dissolution of her, who was,—Miss B—tt of Boston.

*"The storm that racks the winters sky,
"No more disturbs Thy deep repose,
"Than summer evenings latest sigh,
That shuts the Rose."*

MONTGOMERY.

Why are those tones so touching, and so chill?
My heart deep sighs; and through my eye-lids
float

POEM SENT TO IRVING

A hallow'd tenderness—and mute—and still
As dew-drops from the mateless King-Doves
coat
Slow dripping to her melancholy murmuring.

Benumbing chillness tingles through each
cheek,
Like icy shoots that crisp the placid lake
When sighs hoar Winter from his frozen Peak,
And small birds twitter in the lonely brake
Sad song—And eddies, soft and dim, the snowy
flake.

'Tis Memorys chords swept by that mournful
strain
Which once shed perfume o'er my slumb'ring
heart;
A melody of bliss!—almost a *pain*
As thy pure lips their rose-bud folds did part
To breathe sweet-briar tones—and thrill without
strain.

And art Thou fled sweet Warbler like a dream?
Oh! still I feel thy heart-distending notes
Infusing gentleness—a May-morn gleam,
Of the souls brightness! Now thy spirit floats
Heaven-wing'd, and hymning thoughts such as
thine eyes did beam.

Thy voice was as the light of a clear Moon!
Beaming a mellow radiant tide, that fills

POEM SENT TO IRVING

And doth o'erflood the gazers eyes—then soon
Ebbs dim—again, now o'er the brink it *wells*,
While from the half-closed lids, heart-dews do
trickle down.

Well, Thou art dead—No more—'Tis better so
Than to outlive the bliss of warm affection.
Through the drear sands of Life deep-wading—
slow—
Drag harsh and dull those wheels which once did
run
With fiery whirl!—extatic expectation!
Bounding o'er wild-flower turf, and Fairy-
rings,
Dashing the brilliant diamonds of the Sun
From dewy sprays, and Eaglets wings
Scared from their cloud-veil'd nest by Fancys
loftier springs!

Who breathes long pines in frame and soul.
Deceiv'd
Each ardent hope; for Pride and Power still
crush
The bruised Reed—and had it blood—they'd
make it *bleed*.
The sear'd leaf totters 'neath the rain's cold
gush,
Through ruind Halls fierce storms relentless
rush,
Proud Genius, pining, flits his Meteor eye,
Want-palsied Age swings on its rotten Crutch,

POEM SENT TO IRVING

(The slippery, ice-form'd Staff, call'd—*Charity*)
Which thawing neath his grasp, he sinks Eter-
nally.

Wither that reptile heart—that soul of clay,
Benumb'd and vacant, which mere Death
appalls.

Who'd cringe, and sneak, and beg from day to
day,

For what? To stare upon his Dungeon walls;
And count his Bars, as on each shadow crawls
Along the slime. No—A Volcanic Sea
Bursts the proud heart! Its smoking fragments
hurl

One blaze of frantic joy—for it is *Free!*
Tis done.—Its ashes scatter through Infinity!

But *Thou* didst leave the world ere tempest-
driven;

A sinking sun-beam sleeping on the wave.

To *Thee* bright Hope and Love and Peace were
given;

Thou sweetest Rain-bow of a summers eve
Just touching Earth—Thou gently laid thy head—
on *Heaven*.

J. MILLS BROWN "*Birds Nest*" near Cold Spring.
Putnam County, N. Y. August, 30th 1841.

NEW YORK, OCTOBER 18th 1841

Monday morning, Oct. 18th [1841].

MY DEAR IRVING:—

I did not know that you were in the City on Saturday, or I would have asked you to call at the Surrogate's Office & prove my father's signature to his will; you need not come down on purpose to do so, but when you are here, I will be much obliged by your doing the needful.—

Y^r: ever

H. BREVOORT.

NEW YORK, DECEMBER 28th 1842

New York, December 28th, 1842.

MY DEAR IRVING:—

As Carson must have kept you au courant with our affairs, & I have but small matters to write about, I hope you have been indulgent to my silence ever since I received your delightful letter from Paris, in which you spoke of the pleasure of receiving our dear boy in a way that warmed my heart with gratitude & affection. Your continued kindness to him is acknowledged by him, in every letter to us, in terms dictated by a grateful & kindly heart. By this time you must understand his nature & character as well as we do ourselves, and I hope love him as we love him.—He always writes cheerfully & sensibly. His last letter was written just after his return from the South & in high spirits with [all] that has happened & all that he has seen. He speaks of his intention of returning home in the spring, & of deferring his visit to Italy for the present, which I think considerate & proper.

NEW YORK, DECEMBER 28th 1842

To travel alone is but a triste plaisir in any country.—Besides, he is anxious to be usefully employed in some steady pursuit, if the times prove auspicious. In this hope he may be disappointed for awhile. But *things* are not at their worst. We have awakened from our imaginary prosperity, and gone back to 1832, if not later. Our experience has [been] dearly bought, but it will prove valuable. The worse part of the evil is, that the Country is overrun with knaves. Confidence amongst men is at the lowest ebb—all our monied institutions have been defrauded. At this moment my mind is suffering from anxiety on account of our old & respectable N Y Life & Trust C^y, which had, as I though[t] weathered the storm & proved itself incorruptable. Its secretary in whom unlimited confidence was placed was dismissed last week, having been detected in gambling with lottery tickets, wholesale. Although he protested to us that the funds of the Company were untouched by

him, I fear it will prove otherwise, to what amount no one can tell until his accounts are gone over.—This must be a work of time & labor & we have employed assistants to perform it thoroughly. Meanwhile the dividend day approaches (10 January) & we can hardly get at the true state of affairs so soon; & if it is not declared, our credit will be deeply affected. My own stock cost me \$23,000; of which a large part must be sunk, if my apprehensions prove true.

In this way, I have lost since the great fire—about \$25,000, besides the trouble & anxiety which I have suffered in striving to diminish it, & disentangle myself from cares which my mind is unfitted for & which I heartily detest.—These investments in corporate bodies, were not of my own seeking; they were made for me while I was in Europe. Instead of selling out, & pocketing the loss, I have, as the world has done, gone on hoping for better times, until half is lost. Still there is enough

left in lots, which although now unavailable, will become so, if I can manage to keep them longer in my possession.—I am determined for the few years more that it may please God to spare me, to cast anchor in a securer haven and ride out the storm in peace & contentment.—Five years of trouble & anxiety is a horrible sacrifice, but yet I have no cause to complain; I bear the weight of my three score winters & summers lightly & bravely, & am surrounded by a family of intelligence & love, such as falls to [the] lot of few men, & for which I am heartily grateful to God.—

My wife, as you probably know, has been obliged to keep her room two months past. Her health is feeble, but by no means alarming & I hope will be restored by regimen & quiet before long. I think her complaint arises from instability of the nervous system—particularly the nerves which are connected with the stomach.—She desires to be warmly remembered to you, & to thank you for your

paternal kindness to her eldest born.—Our old friend M^r Astor has been confined to his room, & mostly to his bed, these three months past. I saw him yesterday. He was lying in his bed, in his parlor, looking feeble & emaciated, but much recovered. His appetite remains healthy & his mind as clear & as much occupied with old cares, as usual. His years are bearing him downward, & probably his next, the eightieth, will be his last. He asked, as he always does, about you with the liveliest interest & in the kindest manner.—Cogswell is his prop & comfort. He devotes himself to him in a manner which does honor to his heart, although his own health is I think very feeble. The old gentleman often engages him upon serious topics, & seems to derive hope from C's rational and pious views of things present & to come. His skepticism & shrewdness often displays itself, & some times puzzles his friend to answer. A few days since, in speaking about the happiness which Christianity

promises in the world to come, he remarked to C, that it always appeared singular to his mind that these cheerful & confident anticipations were not oftener made the subject of ordinary conversations. Men were naturally fond of dwelling upon things which were expected to give them pleasure, yet the change which promised the highest state of happiness was rarely spoken of familiarly, until it was close at hand.—

C's money matters with him are now, I hear, on a liberal & sure footing.—You will feel deeply interested in the horrible drama of your friend Slidell. The Court of Enquiry has just commenced its proceedings & I have a strong belief that he will be able to justify his acts, and come forth clearly & honorably. I am told that he is well prepared with testimony to prove his imminent danger & necessity for acting as he did.—Whichever way the issue may turn, to him it is a deplorable calamity.

Our friend Capt Jack is in command of the yard at Boston—as usual, he has fallen upon his feet. He is liked by everyone, has a fine house, is well paid & perfectly happy—except that he lost a quarter's pay by the late explosion of a bank at Charlestown.—Kemble is well, & the foundry is much recovered in strength by a pipe contract with our Corporation—but is now at a standstill for work. Paulding resides in Hudson Square, hoping for the reelection of his friend &c.—My neighbor March, with whom Mr. Grinnel dined lately to meet Webster, is trying to persuade him (not the Sec^y) to purchase half of my garden & build a good house upon it. I have not seen M^r G on the subject, but I should be pleased to have him & his wife so near us, not to speak of the sale of the ground, which would be very agreeable too.—You will be pleased to hear that the only lawsuit which I have ever had, & it was not of my seeking, is ended.—My nephew gave in two days before

the day of trial, finding the issue desperate, I suppose, & we are rid of him after a world of trouble in gathering testimony & not a little expense.—He is now the happy owner of five lots of ground, which is two more than will come to the portion of any of my children, who are better entitled to them.—He thought, and his knavish lawyers encouraged him to think, that our fears might give way to his hopes of extortion; but he has the piper to pay, and is happy to dance to the old tune.—I suppose Dickens has written to you, & that you have read his book. It is just what might have been expected from him; but the good people here abuse him for not writing what he neither could nor wou[l]d write, a dull sensible description of these United States. The Negro & spitting chapters were put in for balances I imagine—but some of the others are admirable & display a warm & sensitive heart.—The little woman & her baby—the reflections upon the

NEW YORK, DECEMBER 28th 1842

poor emigrants, are truly admirable & characteristic.—

No materials for your projected work have appeared here. I hope you have fairly sat down to it, and that the subject recommends itself to you, as you proceed.—I will not my dear Irving say half I feel at our long separation. I suppose it will last three years.—Still, I hope there will be enough of life left us to enjoy each others society when we have the happiness to meet again.—

I shall not write to Carson by this steamer, but enclose a letter from his sister Laura. You will take care to advise with him about the best route to come home—but he will have time enough to write further to me about it.—I am every truly Y^r

HENRY BREVOORT.

NEW YORK, OCTOBER 18th 1843

New York, October 18th 1843.

It is an age my dear Irving since I have been gratified with a scrap of remembrance from your pen. While Carson remained with you I did not feel the want of it so painfully; but now that he is away, it becomes indispensable to my comfort, and I entreat you to resume our ancient interchange of thoughts & kindly feelings, as often as it may suit your convenience. Carson wrote us by the last steamer, that he was awaiting your arrival in Paris, while, from another source, I learnt you were safely quartered with your niece at Versailles, several days previous to the date of his letter. No doubt you have since met each other, & that he has related all his agreeable adventures subsequent to his departure from Madrid. We are very anxious to see him among us again; no doubt much improved by his free intercourse with people of the old world, & his observation of the remarkable things which he has seen. He assures me that he has

imbibed a little brass, which is a material indispensable to his success in this country, where impudence is at a high premium.

Your being able to sustain the fatigues of so rough a journey induces me to believe, that your health & strength are restored,—but I would rather receive a confirmation of it from yourself. It may be that you forced yourself beyond your strength to obtain the advice of Parisian Physicians.—Having just got back from the extreme end of Long Is^d, where my family still are, & have been since the beginning of July, I have not been able to see any of your connections, except y^r nephew Pierre.—I have called yesterday & today to see Storrows without success, but I shall take care to find him in the course of the week.—

My wife's health, which has long been very feeble, is now restored by the fine climate and sea bathing of that best of all summer retreats L Is^d; and my brain is possessed with the project of securing to our own exclusive enjoy-

NEW YORK, OCTOBER 18th 1843

ment some far away nook there, to spend our future summers.—My dear girls have a true relish for country life, & would much rather roam over the green fields & sea shores of L I than mingle with the harlequinade of Broad Way—a taste which I know you will commend. Indeed, no one has better reason than I have, to be thankful for the blessings of wife and children who are my comfort & solace through weal & woe.—

My own time for the last two years, has been much occupied with the division & settlement of my good old father's property, which is now nearly completed—and my share of it is now more welcome than I ever supposed it w^d be, owing to the large losses which I have sustained within the last three years by previous investments in the stocks of our cheating monied corporations. I hope to indemnify myself for the future by this dear bought experience. I am no croaker, but it grieves me to say, my dear Irving, that this our native

land is degenerate & corrupt to the very core. You would not believe the symptoms of rottenness which I could point out & establish, but which are now apparent—political moral & social—nor am I able to discover any hope of amendment; any counteracting principles to arrest the downward tendency of all our institutions. It is true—you have lived a long while amidst these calamities, in a country which seems doomed to discord & unhap[p]iness, and perhaps you might be able to find consolation by a comparison which I am not.—But let us turn from this subject and gossip a little about domestic affairs, & the idle topics of the day. Old M^r Astor stills holds out, & is better, body & mind, than he was before you left us. An ontoward event has just happened in his family, which has stirred his ire; a thing which always does him good. Master Sam W— has married Miss Medora Grymes and settled upon her *his* house in Bond Street, which house had been purchased, &

previously given or settled upon his first wife, but by our laws, became his, after her decease. —This affair sticks deep into the old gentleman's gizzard. He views it as a sort of impeachment of his accustomed sagacity; a sort of outwitting & overreaching in the art of bargaining. Previous to the marriage, he sent for the bold Samuel,—not to remonstrate with him upon the step he was about to take, but to warn him, that unless his g g* daughter was not withdrawn from the protection which he had provided for her, & placed in the hands of her grandmother M^r W, means would be adopted to deprive him of the property which he had accidentally acquired. To this, Master S bowed submission. William's family have taken this new alliance in great dudgeon, & have resolved never to hold intercourse, or to speak to their much overrated son in law.—Both parties came in collision a few days since, at a grand fête

* *Great granddaughter.*

champêtre, given at Highwood, by J G King, in honor of his son's marriage—but there was no recognition, & the A's left the field very prematurely to the victorious Sam, who, with his wife, were the lions of the day.—Another rencontre took place upon the occasion much more amusing & characteristic. M^r Delauny, who had been jilted by Sam's Medora, approached her with true french nonchalance—took both her hands & congratulated her very warmly upon the happy event (not of his having been jilted) & clapping his hands upon Sam's shoulder, exclaimed *Eh bien mon ami comment ça va?* The Trousseau which he had ordered from Paris arrived very opportunely before the Marriage, and the jilted man wrote a polite note to his rival offering to sell him the said Trousseau, which was *accepted*, & the bride was made doubly happy. She is said to be a very inoffensive good little girl malgré her mother—possessing very little personal attraction, & with an expression & air

far from *comme il faut*. Sam, albeit not one of the wisest of men, has probably made a silly match—but the resentment of the A's, is, I think, carried beyond all just bounds, unless there are causes for it unrevealed to this pigmy world of ours.—

Another event is soon to happen which will set the aforesaid world agog for awhile. Our opposite neighbor has a wife, who as you must have heard is—O, & that wife is blessed with a daughter, who is, in the opinion of the aforesaid world OO. Whether they are, or not guilty of the crime ascribed to them they are here doomed to oblivion & repentance, never to reenter the bosom of Charley King's "good society." Finding themselves much *genée* by this proscription, & confiding in the liberality of the old world, they are to depart on the 1 November for Havre, under the protection of our worthy *fd* Jimmy Furck, & to pass the winter in Paris. In the Spring, the Chevalier Binda & his sig-

nora, are to escort them to Italy, & watch over them.—

It is a matter of curious speculation to imagine what will be their destiny in the land of Cavaliers & Priests. They will have plenty of money, and will no doubt be disposed to accommodate themselves to the state of things existing there.—Meanwhile—I hope my most worthy & much abused neighbor & old friend, may not relent in his purpose of giving these babes of grace an unlimited furlough. He told me of it himself & I gave him my hearty consent.—His brothers had done the same.—Kemble is at his Foundry which is *dividendless*. But he & his family get a pretty living out of it—so *we* the stockholders, ought to be grateful. Paulding's son is engaged to the pretty Miss Pierson. He, Paulding is waiting the reelection of his fd of Lindenwood;* but from present indications, the tide of public opinion is adverse to his hopes, & very

* *Lindenwald, the home near Kinderhook of Martin Van Buren.*

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flattering to Clay, especially if the scheme of nominating Webster as V P, meets with his consent, & shall be adopted in convention. The little Sage has grown very old, & has become as bulbous as our excellent f^d Capt Jack, who (by the by) is as usual in clover at Boston, in command of the Navy Yard at Charlestown. Prescott's new book is soon to be out. He is a jewel of a fellow, & y^r. devoted admirer & friend. I shall not be obtrusive about y^r. literary pursuits. Cogswell is now well again. Y^r. *favorite* Miss Oxenham is on furlough in England. M^r. Sewal flourishes, notwithstanding D^r. Williams is or is about to be married. The said D^r. told me a good story about the old boy which I am afraid I have not room to relate. He consulted the D^r. as to what items of property he might conscientiously conceal from assessment. The D^r. thought the Library legacy was a fair one for exemption—Oh! said Money-bags, I had tought of dat & so he continued to every

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proposition of the Doctor's. At this rate the Legacy, if the old man holds out long enough will turn out a profitable speculation!—

Y^r interposition in the late outbreak of Madrid has added immensely to your diplomatic fame among your *admiring* countrymen; besides stirring up the ambitions of becoming Ministers among y^r literary contemporaries Bancroft Sparks Cooper &c who are all sighing & dying for the honor of representing the pomp & dignity of our republic at the several Courts of Europe—for a *certain consideration*.—

West is well & pretty well employed. He is, as we all know a capital fellow—and now that I am familiar with all his oddities, I like him better than ever. Wier [h]as painted a very successful picture for the Capital. It is now on exhibition & both in design & execution is better than anything except poor Allston's, that has yet been painted in the U States. We hope a career will open itself to Carson,

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as an architect by & by. Now, unless you have the best of excuses pray sit down & write me an undiplomatic epistle. I beg to be heartily & kindly remembered to my f^d M^{rs} S.—How you must suffer in missing the I—s? They too, *I guess*. Macready is drawing great houses here. Poor Conti is [to] give her first concert tomorrow evening.—Now I don't care who may read this—Do you?

Adieu my dear f^d!

H. B.

**LETTERS TO HENRY BREVOORT
WITH A FEW FROM HIM TO
HIS PARENTS, ETC.**

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AMONG the Brevoort family papers are a considerable number of letters of immediate interest in connection with numerous phases of the Irving-Brevoort correspondence. With the selection that has been made from these documents, there will be found a few hitherto unpublished letters of Irving, from sources other than Mr. Kane's collection.

Even before he had attained the age of manhood, Henry Brevoort was engaged in occupations far removed from the usual life of the young New Yorker of his day.

We recall how in his first letters to Irving, from Mackinac, he is actively engaged in the fur trade; and we find him in the missive to his parents from Marietta in 1804 giving observations of his tour along the Ohio River. A letter from L'Herbette, of March, 1805,

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reveals the fact that Astor made over a branch of his fur business to young Brevoort; but it is amusing to note that business prospects did not seem to be very good at that time, and L'Herbette (who often figures in the Irving-Brevoort correspondence) states that had Astor supposed the fur trade would turn out so poorly "he would have found out some other employment for you this winter." However, that it was worth while for Brevoort to keep up his connection with Astor is shown by the letter from Montreal, in May, 1811, wherein Brevoort discusses various business matters with "old John Jacob" and annexes the table of the harvest of skins obtained from Fond du Lac during the years 1809-1810. Well over 50,000 fur-bearing creatures—beaver, otter, bear, muskrat, mink, raccoon, and others—gave up their lives in those two years; thus silently and unwittingly doing their share in increasing one of the historic fortunes of our city. Astor was already a

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man of wealth, and in the next letter we reach (this time from Irving to Brevoort), he is amusingly compared to Croesus. It is also, presumably, Astor who is referred to in the opening lines of this epistle as the "Great Mandarin." We see Irving at work among hardware and cutlery, but resolved to go back to his pen, and expressing a preference, "by all the martyrs of Grubstreet," to starve in a garret rather than to continue long—whatsoever the pecuniary benefit—in the sordid routine of business.

Of course, in Irving's news of New York friends, the Hoffmans and the Renwicks take first place. Although Matilda Hoffman was no longer alive, the home of her parents was one of those which Irving frequented most; while Mrs. Renwick, "the Bonnie Widow," was then, as ever, a magnet for both Irving and Brevoort. "The Lads" come in for comment; while James Renwick, later the dignified professorial brother-in-law of Henry

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Brevoort, here appears as "the agreeable rattle." Many young girls are made the subject of Irving's lines; and so, too, the actor Cooper, whom Irving calls "old Satan" and who at this time was paying devoted attention to the charming Mary Fairlie whom he later married.

After much talk of the theatre, of Cooke and of Cooper in the parts of Othello and Iago and in other plays, Irving writes of his satiety with city life, dwelling on the "worldly thoughts and cares" that have rendered him weary of company "and dissipation"; he longs to be with Brevoort in "the silent solitudes of our Savage country," where he "could sit for hours and muse deliciously on the borders of one of our vast lakes." Yet it is worth noting that while he was restless and discontented, he did not for a moment lapse into melancholy or ill humor, but remained confident that he would soon turn his abilities to effect, and compensate for this "transient & temporary prodigality of life & talent."

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A few weeks later, in June, 1811, Irving again writes to Brevoort in much the same vein. He begins merrily enough with an account of their friend Gouverneur Kemble's "long and boisterous voyage in an old leaky hulk of a british ship," and with somewhat racy gossip concerning his brother Peter, of whom Irving says "He is a 'Dam rascal' and there's an end of it;" but soon he reverts to the topic of his previous letter—that indolence of mind which had resulted from too much social pleasure—and looks forward to "rugged toil, fierce disputation, wrangling controversy"—anything which shall again call forth his mental energies.

The next letter is from Brevoort to his uncle, John Whetten, whom he confidentially advises to refrain from becoming a stockholder in Astor's fur company until business prospects improve. Here a reference to the seizure by the English of a ship carrying a cargo of peltries brings forward those acts

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of maritime aggression that were to culminate in the War of 1812. The letter concludes with affectionate messages to "the good old people in the Bowery," the "Bowery" being the name given to the Brevoort homestead.

All the manuscripts that have appeared in the preceding pages of these volumes are documents hitherto unpublished; but the next letter from Walter Scott to Brevoort is one that has already found its way into print. A document of historic significance in our literature, it is included here because of its emphatic importance in connection with the Irving-Brevoort correspondence. Scott misspells Irving's name, using indeed the form—Irvine—of the Scottish forbears of the Irving family in America. Scott requests Brevoort to send him further writings of Irving's, fearing, as he says, that he may chance never to hear of them otherwise. The *Knickerbocker's History of New York*, which so amused Walter Scott, had, of course, a great vogue in America;

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but local New York history did not interest the foreign public of that day, and it was not until 1819, the date of the publication of the *Sketch Book*, that Irving's fame was established abroad.

Brevoort, when writing to Irving on June 24th, 1813, enclosed Scott's letter in praise of *Knickerbocker's History*. Irving then must have forwarded it to his brother Ebenezer, in the possession of whose family the letter remained until in 1833 Ebenezer's son, Pierre Paris Irving, returned it to Brevoort with the message that shall be found further on in these pages. This Pierre Irving must not be confused with Washington's other nephew Pierre, his literary executor and the editor of Irving's *Life and Letters*. Pierre Paris, however, also showed the literary bent characteristic of so many of the Irvings, and as a boy of eighteen had been a contributor to a literary periodical aptly and prophetically entitled *The Fly*, its life terminating after the

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brief period of five issues. Pierre later became a clergyman; and one surmises that compunctions of a moral nature led him, after for ten years retaining Scott's letter rescued from his father's garret, to return this precious document to Henry Brevoort.

The friendship with Walter Scott was the notable incident of Brevoort's early travels in Europe, but certainly Brevoort's most amusing hours must have been spent in the perusal of the long letters sent to him from America by his little sister Margaret, who figures so frequently in the correspondence with Irving, and who was later to become the wife of Professor James Renwick. From some of these charming letters of the little girl, who regarded her oldest brother with affection akin to adoration, we have chosen (with the gracious permission of Mrs. Robert Sedgwick) a few excerpts of the years 1812 and 1813. Quaint little nuggets they are! In the first is a description of a party at Ward's Island, where

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Irving romped with the children and teased them.

“Now my dear Brother I must tell you of our yesterdays party, at wards Island! you will laugh and shake in such a manner, if you can make out to understand my blundering description, this party, you must know, was given by old judge Benson, he particularly invited a number of ladies and Gentlemen, my *consequencial* self included, to tea there, of course we all went highly delighted, and determined, to enjoy ourselves as much as possible, and so we did, Isabella and myself did not behave exactly as the rest did, for the sage Mr. Irving was of our party, and we cosidered ourselves in some measure, as in the presence of a grand Inquisitor, you know he detests all kinds of romping, as well as your literary self. he is the meekest man, I ever knew, he is the very counterpart of Moses *himself*—he thinks no more of *himself*, than the grand sulton of the East thinks of

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himself. My dear Brother I am only in *fun.*"

Later we find an amusing portrait of old Henry Brevoort, with his passion for all the animals that he kept in his "ark" on Broadway; "quite happy, save now and then a cloud of care passes over his face when he thinks of the fate of his country." But when the American navy gives a good account of itself, another letter of Margaret's shows us how jubilant is the "venerable father."

"Behold me then seated at my bedroom window in the second story of the ark, with a huge earthen inkstand before me, and two old goose quills, I am determined not to stop until they are both worn out.

"You will find but little alteration at your return he stoops a little more, and his hair is a little whiter, his nose is almost well and he is in perfect health, and quite happy, save now and then, a cloud of care passes over his face, when he thinks of the fate of his country;

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he says things don't go on as they should something is wrong at the head, and he fears we are in a bad way, he dont understand these new fangled doings, our government is made up of upstarts, whose heads are as empty as calabashes, people dont do as they used to in old times &c &c &c. His passion for birds is as great as ever, he has had very bad luck with the canaries, our yard is filled with pigeons, ducks, geese, fowls, goslings, peacocks, pigs &c &c &c.—

“Mrs. Renwick sent the coach out for me the day before yesterday to come in to a little tea drinking; yesterday afternoon she brought me out with all the letters, her family, the Rhinelanders and W Irving drank tea with us, it would have done your heart good to see what a happy set we were.—

“We have got a charming little neighbourhood there's Mrs Hoffman behind us and Mrs Talman before us (she has moved into Mr Minthorns new home) we are all delighted

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with each other Mrs H is one of the most charming little women I almost ever met with, she and my good Mother are quite chosen friends, I find so many inducements to stay in the country that I very rarely go to town, perhaps you will scarcely credit me when I tell you I had not been there in a month before Mrs R sent for me; so you see I have grown quite domestic and shall want no jewels to decorate myself with, in the remainder of Mr Brevoorts rural shades.—

“Dear Mrs Renwick, what shall I say of her? she is everything that’s good and amiable, my letters are never half read or enjoyed until she reads them with me she almost jumps for joy whenever we get one from you & really seems to feel the same satisfaction that an affectionate mother would who was blessed with such a son; When Uncle W gets one he gives some part of it to Mr Irving from him it goes to Mrs Renwick from her to me and then

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to the owner mine go the rounds as regularly. I was at Mrs R. when I received your last to Father & Mother, I absolutely could scarcely get sight of it there was such fighting, &, boxing, (I would have given any thing had you been behind the curtain) there was Mr Irving flourishing about with his cane banging Isabella and myself as if we had been two little sticks and not Miss R and Miss B while we are fighting who shall read first Mrs R finds some snug corner where she sits and reads the whole letter."

"I suppose dame fame has informed you of the wondrous achievements of our infant and galant navy as its called. my dear Father is quite delighted, he hired a boat the other day for the express purpose of going on board the *Macidonian*, never did Alexander return more triumphantly from his conquests than did our venerable Father, bearing in his hand an immense piece of British oak, which is

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exhibited on our chimney piece, for the inspection of the curious; all of his very great friends are favored with small splinters, as a mark of great distinction."

From still another letter is chosen the passage in which the young girl writes on the evil of the world, and observes that if the disturbers of peace were as anxious to do good as they are eager to torment one another, "what a very happy world this would be." In those days, as in these, the censor broke in upon the privacy of correspondence; but Margaret sees the necessity of restraining her abuse of President Madison and the rulers of England and France (whom she familiarly calls Jim, George, and Bony), lest her letter be made the subject of investigation by perhaps the British Parliament itself.

"I am almost afraid to say anything, now that I have begun, they tell me it is more than

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probable that my letter will be opened; I heartily wish, all the disturbers of the peace were happily lodged in that precious planet, (saturn) which seems to be now, reigning with peculiar influence; infusing its malignant rays into the hearts of men; inciting them to such dreadful cruelties, that it makes me shudder even to hear them; their minds are devoted to the study of tormenting each other, and in this laudable and praiseworthy pursuit they are most indefatigable; (If they were as anxious to do good what a very happy world this would be; thanks to the beneficent giver of all good! we, do, now and then, see an example of this kind! to show us just what man should be!) We must endeavour to put all the blame upon the bad planet, for the honor of human nature; I hope this apology will suffice for their *highmightynesses*—I should be sorry if they were to take it into their heads to be in great dudgeon, and throw my poor little letter in the fire; for only consider my

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dear Brother, what an incalculable loss it would be; I believe I must condemn myself to the great and almost impracticable punishment of holding my tounge, for the sake of preser[v]ing this most precious epistle, and indeed my Brother when one considers what a bitter mouthfull it is to restrain ones self from abusing these worthy rulers and potentates of the earth, (Jim George and Bony) it would not be considered as an inconsiderable instance of self denial *even* at Miss Brentons school. I veryly believe I should get the laughing hysteries were I ever to see or hear of the british parliaments speculating upon the contents of a little girls letter, to see if they could discover any thing like *treason* in it. . . ."

Irving was at this time occupying the lodgings of Brevoort whom he calls his absent "wife," as Margaret's jesting lines record:

"Mr Irving has grown quite a beauty, I told him so the other day at our house, think-

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ing it would have a tendency to make him very civil but I was mistaken, he is not a bit better than before. his face is not clouded with care as formerly he says he would be perfectly happy if his wife was here; who do you think that is? a wandering *poet*,—who was formerly seen in America, but he has taken his departure to a more congenial clime, in order to perfect himself in his profession; ther's great suspicions entertained of him here, we actually hear he was to be married to some *great* scotch lass, this report has made the afore said husband extremely uneasy, and I really heard his mother say she would turn the vagrant out of doors if he offered to bring any of his high cheek bones here,—so if you should chance to meet with him in your travels, do for humanity's sake give the poor fellow a gentle hint respecting home affairs."

The glimpses that Margaret gives us of some of the characters in the Irving-Brevoort

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correspondence are, as we have seen, full of little personal touches that could have been possible only to a girl of quick discernment and rare wit; but perhaps for us of the great city that extends so many miles along the Hudson, the most striking paragraph is the one wherein Margaret writes, "I find so many inducements to stay in the country that I very rarely go to town."—The "country" was Eleventh Street and Broadway!

On the outside of one of these letters from Margaret—one addressed to Henry Brevoort at Birmingham, in the care of Irving's brother-in-law, Henry Van Wart,—Brevoort wrote the following verses humorously indicative of British feeling at the threats of Napoleon:

Says Bony to Jonney I'll soon be at Dover
Says Jonney to Bony that's doubted by some
Says Bony but what if I really come over,
Says Jonney then really you'll be overcome.

John Howard Payne next engages our attention with some lines written in 1813

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introducing to Brevoort the actor Charles Kemble, brother of John Philip Kemble and Mrs. Siddons, and himself famous as actor, dramatic reader, and theatrical manager. Payne was intimate with both Irving and Brevoort, as he was indeed with many other noted men, such as Coleridge and Charles Lamb. He and Brevoort were born in the same year, and their interest in the stage was long a bond between them; while with Irving, Payne has various points of biographical similarity in that both these New York authors were clerks in early life, and both towards the end of their careers received appointments from the United States Government in recognition of their services to literature. But while Irving is remembered for many of his works, John Howard Payne, whose writings are perhaps even more voluminous, would long ago have been forgotten had it not been for his lyric of "Home, Sweet Home," a song still the possession of myriads

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of persons of whom perhaps not a handful is aware of the name of the play (*Clare, or the Maid of Milan*) in which these cherished verses originally appeared.

Another letter relating to Irving's and Brevoort's interest in matters of the theatre is from a young actress with whom, it would seem, Brevoort did not, after his return from England to America, care to maintain a correspondence. This Miss Booth was a member of the same company as Junius Brutus Booth, and is remembered in annals of the stage mainly because of her request that the great actor, who was Edwin Booth's father, should add an "e" to his name, lest she and he be thought to belong to the same family.

The next three letters carry us from theatrical affairs to Brevoort's more intense interest in the literary career of his friend. A brief note from Washington Irving, dated London, Sept. 21st, 1819, has to do with the *Sketch*

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Book, which is again the topic of the two letters written shortly after this date by Ebenezer Irving to Brevoort. In these, we have further evidence of the collaboration of Irving's friend and Irving's brother in connection with furthering the publication and success of the various numbers of the *Sketch Book*. From the point of view of the critic, the most noteworthy lines that here call for comment are those in which Ebenezer expresses his doubt at the reception of the *Legend of Sleepy Hollow*—"a tale which although a pretty thing and neatly told is still a tale." Ebenezer surmises that nine out of every ten of the female readers will be pleased with it; but he himself finds more to praise in Irving's articles *The Mutability of Literature* and *John Bull*. We recall, however, that Brevoort, with more perspicacity and perhaps a deeper feeling for sentiment and a better sense of humor, realized at once that the *Legend of Sleepy Hollow* was one of the best

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emanations from Irving's pen; a judgment that posterity has effectively confirmed.

The letters of Brevoort give many indications of his interest in science, drama, and literature, as well as in business and politics; and his directorship in the National Academy of Arts is one of numerous indications that he participated in this realm also of the activities of his time. This participation is shown in a practical and generous aspect in financial aid extended to Rembrandt Peale. In the letters of 1824 between Brevoort and Peale there is considerable interesting comment not alone on Peale's proposed portrait of George Washington, but also on the famous portraits by Stuart, Pine, and Brevoort's friend, John Trumbull. Peale was of the opinion that his own portrait of Washington was a far more faithful piece of work than Stuart's, which "was taken after the mouth of the General had been distorted by the rude hands of the dentist."

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Brevoort's influence as a patron of art was invoked not alone directly by Rembrandt Peale in connection with national as well as private commissions for paintings, but was called into requisition in other ways, as, for instance, when Vanderlyn, after receiving a payment in advance for a full-length portrait of Andrew Jackson, took his own time about the completion of the work. To Henry Brevoort, James Hamilton, to whom Jackson had offered the secretaryship of war, and who later was Governor of South Carolina, appeals, confident that Brevoort, if anyone, can stir the sluggish brush of the recalcitrant artist. It was Vanderlyn, we recall, who made the most delightful portrait of Irving as a young man.

People were frequently writing to Brevoort on all manner of topics. From Robert Emmet, the nephew of the great Irish patriot, and himself a lawyer of high rank, there is a very witty letter in which he asks Brevoort for snuff

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and a novel to while away the tedium of influenza. Charles Carroll of Carrollton requests him to serve as his proxy in financial affairs. James Kent writes to Brevoort concerning his famous *Commentaries*, a work so popular that the first four editions of 10,000 copies were sold at nine dollars a copy,—the most remunerative American book of its time. Nor is it alone statesmen, authors, artists, and actors whose letters attest the important civic position of Brevoort, for here too we meet with a communication from General Winfield Scott, who desires Brevoort to interest himself in a young captain, Alfred Mordecai, who was graduated from West Point at the head of his class. The interest shown in him by General Scott, Mordecai was later to justify not only as an author on military subjects but as a member of important military commissions, especially in the Crimea; his observations in connection with that commission being published by order of Congress.

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A letter from Peter Irving to Brevoort, written at Rouen, in 1828, recalls the long friendship between these two men and their travels in Europe fifteen years earlier; while a letter from James Fenimore Cooper, written at Paris in 1831, in which Cooper seeks to arrange an introduction to the Marquis de Marbois, is an especially interesting missive, not alone because of the evidence it adduces of the social position abroad of Washington Irving's only American rival in contemporary literature, but also because of the picture it gives of Marbois, who was the Secretary of the French Legation at Washington during the Revolution, and who figures again in American history on account of his appointment by Napoleon to act as the chief agent in the cession of Louisiana to the United States. The Marquis, in spite of his venerable age in 1831, seems to have retained the liveliness of youth to such an extent that in styling Lafayette "the Patron of Americans in

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Paris" he proceeds to call himself the "*vice* Patron."

During this stay in France, Brevoort kept up a constant correspondence with his parents, and from these family letters the one chosen for publication in the following pages has been selected because of its relation to Brevoort's acquisition of property on which to this day stands the house that he was later to erect at 24 Fifth Avenue, the first private residence in that now greatest of residential streets. It was in this old mansion that the first elaborate costume ball ever took place in our city, and within its walls Washington Irving and many other well-known authors were honored guests.

But of all the letters written from France, the one which will appeal most to the student of American history is the missive addressed by George Washington Lafayette to Henry Brevoort and the other members of the American committee who had voiced on the death of General Lafayette the sympathy of American

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friends and admirers. The devotion of America to the great statesman who had espoused the Revolutionary cause with all the chivalry of youth was more intense than has ever been shown to any other foreigner, and far exceeded the gratitude of France for the many services rendered to his own country by that truly noble man; and it may well be believed that Lafayette's son was not merely indulging in the characteristic courtesy of the French language when he wrote: "Gentlemen, your sympathy softens our affliction and spreads a salutary balm on our grief-shattered hearts."

From Paris also, eight years later, in 1834, was written an important letter of Washington Irving, of which excerpts have already been published, but which now for the first time appears in its entirety,—a letter written when Irving was on his way to Madrid as Minister to Spain. Henry Brevoort's oldest son, Carson, was with him as attaché, and through-

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out the letter play the sentiments of Irving's devotion both to his old friend and his old friend's son.

Two more missives bring us to the end of these manuscripts—notes that are included on account of their decided local interest. The first of these, dated April 24th, 1843, is the communication of the Committee appointed by the Vestry of Grace Church, in which Brevoort is asked to set a price on a portion of the old Brevoort farm on Broadway. Brevoort in answer names \$35,000, but stipulates that the heirs of his father's estate shall be held "harmless from any assessment" in case Eleventh Street "should hereafter be opened from Broad Way to the Bowery." The transaction was concluded, and Grace Church (whose architect was James Renwick, son of Margaret Brevoort) still firmly retains its place amid the swift eddies of those commercial thoroughfares; its lawns, and trees and hedges a lyric note amid the strident noises of

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their surroundings. For those of us who have been brought by the letters of Brevoort and of Irving into touch with the olden days, this little green oasis of the garden of Grace Church has that ineffable charm which is the intermingling of the present and the past. Here young Margaret rejoiced in the "shady groves" of the country; and here old Henry Brevoort stood four-square, deaf to importunities and threats, resolved that no street should cut past his home; as, indeed, none has, even to these very times. And here, gazing over the green hedge that runs along the Broadway fence, you shall see, of a summer's day, the magnolias shedding their pink blossoms on the little lawns, and, it may be, note a robin as he alights on the old sun-dial, to preen his crimson breast.

G. S. H.

**LETTERS TO HENRY BREVOORT,
WITH A FEW FROM HIM TO
HIS PARENTS, ETC.**

LETTERS TO HENRY BREVOORT,
WITH A FEW FROM HIM TO
HIS PARENTS, ETC.

Marietta, February 7th 1804.

MY DEAR PARENTS:—

I cannot omit this opportunity of informing you I am thus far in safety.—My journey was rather disagreeable owing to tempestuous weather. I cannot speak with precision of what may occur to my benefit, but I trust my trouble will be attended to with all the success I contemplated.—M^r Gillman the person with whom I am connected resides here.—I am well pleased with him, and believe he will be very serviceable.—In making this tour I may not reap much actual benefit, but I shall certainly form such connections, as will ultimately prove very advantageous.—Inform M^r Whetten that I saw Gen^l Putnam & a

MARIETTA, FEBRUARY 7th 1804

Lawyer Putnam, who remember her with pleasure and speak in high terms of her many patriotick acts.—I have neither time nor inclination to make any remarks on the country through which I have passed, in fact it affords nothing worthy of observation.—The Country along the Ohio River is settling very fast—and promises in a few years to become a place of great importance.—A number of vessels are built annually along the River, and despatched with the produce of the Country to different parts of the globe.—This business is of infinite advantage to its inhabitants—Hemp is raised in considerable quantities, amply sufficient for the rigging of their vessels.—Coal is found in all parts of the country in inexhaustible quantities.—

I suppose you have heard nothing from Bill, poor fellow I shall not have the pleasure of seeing him this Spring.—I cannot possibly say when I shall have the pleasure of seeing you, probably not before August next—I

MARIETTA, FEBRUARY 7th 1804

trust then to meet you all in perfect health.—
May God preserve you untill then and long
after. I hope the Little ones are well—re-
member me to my bowery acquaintances—
and believe me to be most affectionately Your
Son

HENRY BREVOORT, JR.

I beg you will excuse this scroll—it is
scarcely intelligible, but time will not permit
me to copy it—so take it as with all its blots
and scratches.—It's probable you will not
hear from me for some time as the mails in
this country are very irregular.

Adieu!—

NEW YORK, MARCH 6th 1805

New York, March 6th 1805.

SIR:—

The desire I had of being able to give you some agreeable information has caus'd me to postpone writing to you longer than I should have wish'd. It is but a few days ago that M^r Astor has positively wrote to some of his friends that he has made over his fur business to you, advising them however that if they chose to send any skins down he will be glad to buy them for your account. Since your departure we have had nothing at all to do in that way: not so much as a dozen of skins have as yet been brought to the store.

We all heartily wish you may meet with better luck than you had in the begin[n]ing of your journey, and that some good business may compensate the fatigues you have undergone. this wish has often engross'd our conversation during the cold weather which we experienc'd as, by what we felt, we form'd an idea of what you had to encounter. M^r A. was not the

NEW YORK, MARCH 6th 1805

last to think of you on those occasions, and after having receiv'd the letters in which you mentioned that skins were scarce & their price high, he told me several times that had he suppos'd that the fur business turn'd out so poorly, he would have found out some other employment for you this winter.

The truth is that the prospect is not very favorable at present. All the accounts of sale which he received from London or Amsterdam state some loss. he has already advis'd you of it & mention'd his opinion as to the prices he thinks you can safely pay, so that I have nothing to add on the subject.

I receiv'd lately a small invoice of goods from my friends which were directed to M^r: A —conformable to the liber[t]y he gave me last summer; he told me since that if in the future they send me some more Goods, they must consign them direct to you & I wrote to my friends accordingly.

NEW YORK, MARCH 6th 1805

In hopes of receiving news that you enjoy
good health & spirits, I am

With Consideration,

Your humble serv^t

P. LHERBETTE.

H. BREVOORT, JR., ESQ.

MONTREAL, MAY 9th 1811

Montreal, May 9th 1811.

DEAR SIR:—

M^r Gillespie has fixed our departure on the morning of the 16 instant—Mr. Pothier is to remain in Montreal until the goods from England arrive & are forwarded to S^t Josephs, which will probably not take place much before the 20 June.—

The Gentlemen were sorry to learn that no permission had yet been granted by the Secy of the Treasury to admit the goods to entry. I understand that they are to meet and consult on that and other subjects this day.—

If a favourable change should occur & intelligence thereof can be transmitted to St. Josephs by the 20th of August, the Agents are of opinion, that there would still be sufficient time; but should nothing be obtained by that time they will wait until the 5 or 10 Sept & then return.—

If orders are not rec^d at St. Joseph's by the 5 of August, I wish you inform me whether

MONTREAL, MAY 9th 1811

you are of opinion that there is an absolute necessity that I should remain there longer; I am rather anxious on that subject, having made no arrangements for my absence from N York longer than the 1 September.—

Letters have been this day received by the N W* from M^r M^cGillivray, which state that the Beaver sale has been deferred & that after it had taken place he intended returning via N York.—

As far as I can gather without making known the object of my intentions, the Mk† Cy will either sell at Mackinack or consign these furs to some person in New York for sale:—they will all arrive from the interior within the month of July, so that, that part of my business can be early dispatched.—

Mess^{rs} Reed & Clark were both disapointed at not hearing from you.—M^r R will take passage with Mr. Pothier.

If you send a message to Mk—he ought not

* *North West Company.*

† *Mackinack.*

MONTREAL, MAY 9th 1811

to travel by way of the Lakes, as the uncertainty of getting passage accross Erie & Huron would cause great delay.

M^r Pothier will probably be the last light canoe from Montreal, & the quickest conveyance.—

I hope you have not omitted to transmit y^r draft to M^r Bleakley on my account.—

I am, D^r Sir,

Y^r Most Obt.

HENRY BREVOORT, JR.

I annex for y^r information (if you have not received it before) the returns from Fond du Lac for 1809 & 1810.—

MONTREAL, MAY 9th 1811

<i>1810</i>		<i>1809</i>
4055	Beaver	4072
823	Otters	736
5918	Martens	3555—short
352	Bears	237
75	Cubs	17
19	Brown & Silver	
Short 8170	Muskrat	27698
516	Mink	622
697	Fisher	340
93	Raccoon	

JOHN JACOB ASTOR, ESQ.
New York.

NEW YORK, MAY 15th 1811

New York, May 15th 1811.

DEAR BREVOORT:—

The *Great Mandarin* has just informed me that there will be an opportunity to forward a letter to you on friday, so my dear Boy, though hurried almost unto death, yet I will endeavour to indite a little epistle which may follow you even unto your savage haunts, and be as welcome to your fainting spirits, as was a drop of water to Hagar of yore, when drooping in the wilderness. Since you left us, I have been a mere animal; working among hardware & cutlery. We have been moving the store, & I (my pen weeps at the very thought of it) have had, in this time of hurry and confusion, to lend all the assistance in my power, and bend my indolent & restive habits, to the plodding routine of traffic. But this is only a temporary sacrifice. Shut your eyes, oh, ye blessed Muses, lest ye afterwards look upon me with scorn! By all the martyrs of Grubstreet, I'd sooner live in a garret, &

NEW YORK, MAY 16th 1811

starve into the bargain, than follow so sordid, dusty, soul killing a way of life; though certain it would make me as rich as Old Croesus, or John Jacob Astor himself.

I am in quiet possession of your room, and am very much pleased with my situation. Mine host & his wife are a very obliging agreeable couple. I hope you will be induced to take up your quarters with us when you return. You need not fear *shocking the feelings* of Mrs. Rumsey, as she expects it.

Charles and Ann arrived here last evening. They are both hearty, and their little girl more beautiful than ever.

May 16th. I was interrupted in this letter yesterday. Last evening I was at a tea party at Mrs. Hoffmans—rather a stupid one—the piano was out of tune & they had been unable to get it put in order, so we were disappointed in the Musical treat we had promised ourselves—Charles sung one or two songs

NEW YORK, MAY 16th 1811

without accompaniment. Your Sister was there. She came in town the evening before, to go to the play with Mrs. Renwick at whose house she is on a visit of two or three days. She is quite a favourite with the Bonny Widow.

I have scarcely seen anything of the Lads since your departure, business and an amazing want of inclination has kept me from their threshold. Jim, that sly poacher, however, prowls about there, and vitrifies his heart by the furnace of their charms. I accompanied him there on Sunday evening last, and found the Lads & Miss Knox with them. Sue was in great spirits, and played the Sparkler with such great success as to silence the whole of us excepting Jim—who was the *agreeable rattle* of the evening.—God defend me from such vivacity as hers, in future. Such smart speeches without point or meaning—such bubble & squeak nonsense. I'd as leave stand by a frying pan for an hour and listen to the

cooking of apple fritters. After two hours dead silence & suffering on my part I made out to drag Jim off, and did not stop running until I was a mile from the house—I have not been able to go there since—but I hope the humour will return again. All this *entre nous*.

The Heir Apparent is in close siege of the little Heiress near the park; with the whole influence of Pistareen Johns family opposed to him. Peter has been obliged to lay by his buckram dignity and bow to Belial, or what is the same thing—to shake hands with Alex Stewart. Whether he will carry his point or not is a matter of very great doubt to me, as Peter is very much given to play truant from his post, and run after sundry little damsels about the city. Little Miss Gouverneur; the Little Macombs of Bellville, &c, &c have at different times seduced him from his allegiance—and in two days philandering he has lost the headway of a fortnight courtship.

The noble captain was married shortly after

NEW YORK, MAY 16th 1811

your departure, and immediately fled with his turtle dove to the groves. I have bet a coat with John King that he would have occasion for a nursery within two years, and I feel no apprehension of losing.

Mrs. Colden has lately been to Phil^a with Alice Ann and the fair Angelica & her Sisters. Mrs. C. returned a few days since and left Angelica & Julia there, where I am told they are making sad havoc among the Beaux. Mrs. C. gave a tea party on her return, by way no doubt of a rejoicing. I was there, and made my entry in the back room, where I found Peter in full blast of gallantry & eloquence, with a fan in one hand and nosegay in the other, declaiming in a true Will Honeycomb style to a knot of little blossoms; one of whom I soon found out was little Miss Beach. Among the other turtles who were pairing at this convocation was Old Satan and Mary Fairlie. It would have amused you to see Cooper playing softness and suavity.

NEW YORK, MAY 17th 1811

The Divine Kitty was likewise there, but I bethought me of the Smoky Chimney, and kept at a wary distance.

May 17. The arrival of Ann & Charles has been the signal for a host of little rascally tea parties; There was one at the Douglas last evening,—but I swore off & went to the theatre. Your Sister Margaret went there under the protection of Mrs. Renwick. I can't stomach these omnipresent Douglasses—they break in every where, with such a troop of retainers & mosstroopers at their heels that I should be fearful of relapsing into barbarism in their society. And then there is Cousin Betsy—riggd out in fierce blue silks with diamond necklace, breastpins, broaches, earrings bobbs & three score rings on each finger, that I never see her without thinking of some of the eminent pawnbrokers ladies I have seen in London.

Sam Swartwout arrived from England a few

NEW YORK, MAY 17th 1811

days since, as rugged & hearty as ever I saw him. Cooke & Cooper have been playing together for several nights the old fellow's Iago was admirable & threw Othello in the background in my opinion. He has however been sick & humbled & reduced most confoundedly so that the second time he played Iago he was comparatively languid. Cooper has not used him quite fairly I think. He got up Alexander the great that he might rant-about in fine clothes & Old Cooke be sunk in the inferior part of Clytus. The Old Boy however, in the two or three passages where he had a chance, came out nobly and received great applause. As to Cooper he was so hugely begilt and betinsell'd, that the finery outdazzled itself, and he looked not unlike a pyramid of macaroons, bedizzened with sugar candy.

Last night nothing would serve Cooper but he must have the play of the fair penitent, though several remonstrated with him and

NEW YORK, MAY 17th 1811

numerous parties of ladies declined going. Cooper however, was bent upon playing up to Old Cooke in Lothario. Here he was sadly disappointed. His Lothario has become [a] terrible formal heavy fine gentleman & in the scene between him & Horatio Old Cooke completely bore away the palm, receiving applause at every speech, while Cooper was not cheered by a single clap. On Monday they play Pierre & Jaffier on Wednesday Cooke plays King John for his benefit to Coopers Faulconbridge. On Friday they conclude by a repetition of Othello—& then adieu to the theatre.

We received long letters from Little Johnny Fig a few days since. He has been a *cacao planter* in Trinidad, and writes in great spirits—by his account he is likely to do very well. A gentleman of property has befriended him—and advances all the funds, purchases the plantation negroes, &c & John is to receive half the profits for his attention and labour in superintending & managing it.

I am languishing to return to my books and my pen, but this moving of Merchandize and the attendant hurry has completely broken in upon my time and habits—I hope, however to begin next week well, and once started, I feel certain I shall go on prosperously. Had I my choice I would go into the country, and busy myself among the groves for the whole summer, but I rather think I shall pass the greatest part of it in the city.

I rode out to Mrs. Renwicks place yesterday & walked over the Scenes of last Summers pastimes—but some how or another my mind was so bewildered & poisoned by worldly thoughts and cares that the sweet face of Nature had not its usual effect upon my feelings. I'm weary of company & dissipation—I have gone through such a variety this last winter, that I am perfectly sated for the present; and feel no disposition to visit or mingle in any scene of amusement. I'd give anything to be accompanying you through the

NEW YORK, MAY 17th 1811

sublime solitudes of our Savage country. I feel as if I could sit for hours and muse deliciously on the borders of one of our vast lakes—or on the summit of one of our solitary promontorys in the highlands as I did last summer. Or in fact any where where I had not to listen to the tedious commonplace of fashionable society—and had some of the grand scenes of nature to occupy my mind. I have been mingling in company for some days past, without any soul or spirit—a mere vacant carcass of a man—sunk in apathy & indifference. Not that I feel anything like gloom or ill humour—it is a languor of the mind—or rather my mind is tired of being mocked with trifles & mere amusement, and craves food, occupation, and its own society. This makes me restless and unsatisfied, though surrounded with pleasure. As I know the malady however I feel no fear of speedily curing it.

McGillivray and the honest, hard favoured

NEW YORK, MAY 17th 1811

James Cameron arrived here a few days since, and the former will probably hand you this letter. I have I believe written pretty nearly all I have to say—and this letter is made up of such trifling chit chat and such trifling topics that I should be ashamed to send it to any body but yourself. You may see from the tenor of it, in how slip slop a manner I have been passing my time. But this is transient & temporary prodigality of life & talent—I will make up for it all, when I turn to busy occupation.

I expected to have heard from you before this, but I find nobody has had a line from you, but *Dashwood*, so I shant complain. God bless you my dear fellow and keep you sound, prosperous & happy.

Affectionately yours

W. IRVING.

NEW YORK, JUNE 8th 1811

New York, June 8th 1811.

DEAR BREVOORT:—

L'Herbette has just informed me of an opportunity which departs today of writing to you. I am half inclined not to use it, as you remained several days at Montreal without writing me a line, though Judge Ogdens family afforded a certain and speedy conveyance. I wrote you a long letter by McGillivray which I suppose you have received. Nothing of particular moment has happened since the writing of that epistle excepting the arrival of the most noble Patroon, who has once more resumed his sway over the club. Gouv has had a long and boisterous voyage in an old leaky hulk of a british ship, with a mutinous crew and a nincompoop Captain. He & Ben Seaman were so tired of their ship that they quit her about 150 miles from land & got on board a coaster by which after being tossed about 4 days they were landed at *Folly landing* in Virginia & got home in a

NEW YORK, JUNE 8th 1811

week more; having by this *short cut*, arrived here in little more than 8 days *after* the ship, which made the light house in 20 hours after they quit her. Gouv has now been home three or four days, and has already become so regular, and domestic, and has fallen so exactly into his old habits, that it begins to seem as if he had never been away from us. I never knew a fellow so little changed by European travelling. His looks too are much the same, excepting that he is a little sunburnt, but he is still as spare and gaunt as a greyhound. Since his return we have treated Peter, the late Prince Regent, with great contempt, and take all possible occasions to flout him. . . . Peter however consoles himself by courting all the little girls in town, who are under sixteen; for you must know this old lecher has become so dainty and sickly in his palate, that nothing will go down with him but your squab pigeons and your first weeks green pease. . . . He reminds me most

NEW YORK, JUNE 8th 1811

powerfully of the old duke of Queensbury whom I used to see, wheeled out in his easy chair, to the porch before his door, that he might ogle the wenches as they passed by. But Peter is a "Dam rascal" and there's an end of it.

As to the Lads I have seen them but once or twice since that memorable evening of which I wrote you. I passed an evening with them about a week ago at Miss Wilkes, and as they did not attempt to sparkle, they did very well. But I am weary of gossiping, and have almost entirely left off visiting for some time past; it will become amusing again by next fall. I do want most deplorablely to apply my mind to something that will arouse and animate it; for at present it is very indolent & relaxed; and I find it extremely difficult to shake off the lethargy that enthrals it. This makes me restless and dissatisfied with myself, and I am convinced I shall not feel comfortable & contented until my mind is fully employed.

NEW YORK, JUNE 8th 1811

Pleasure is but a transient stimulus, and leaves the mind more enfeebled than before; give me rugged toil, fierce disputation, wrangling controversy, harrassing research, give me anything that calls forth the energies of the mind, but for heavens sake shield me from those calms, those tranquil slumberings, those enervating triflings, those syren blandishments that I have for some time indulged in, which lull the mind into complete inaction, which benumb its *powers*, and cost it such painful & humiliating struggles to regain its activity and independence.

I am ashamed to say that I have not been out to your father's since your departure. I have however frequently seen Margaret at M^{rs} Renwicks, with whom she is a great favourite; and who is a friend worthy of her cultivating. Your family I believe are all well; I suppose L'Herbette will give you particular accounts of them.

Cooke & Cooper played here several nights

NEW YORK, JUNE 8th 1811

to very good houses and are now performing at Baltimore. Since their Departure, King Rusher kindly gave Duryea six nights engagement; during which time he played as might be expected to empty boxes, and will probably clear 50 Dollars by his engag^t. Write to me by the first opportunity & believe me, ever

Yours truly

W. IRVING.

ST. JOSEPH'S, JUNE 25th 1811

St. Joseph's, June 25th 1811.

MY DEAR SIR:—

I have just written a long epistle to M^r Astor to whom I refer you for particulars, not having time to repeat them.—

The aspect of the Fur Company's affairs, *at present* looks as unfavourable as is possible; & as M^r A in one of his Letters to me intimates that before my return you are likely to become a stockholder, I now advise you by all means to wait my return before you are persuaded to take a single step.—This of course is only between ourselves.—

I am very anxious respecting my affairs in New York, particularly as I entertain not the most distant hope of being actively employed in behalf of the Company—by reason of the son-in-law—and consequently shall return as soon as I can, without forfeiting my engagements.—

I hope & trust you will meet no particular obstruction—M^r A expresses his willingness to assist in case of need.—

ST. JOSEPH'S, JUNE 25th 1811

I have heard nothing from the Capt from N York. M^r M^cGillivray informs me that he called on Capt Ward in London, and as it was a matter of importance that so large a parcel of Peltries should be sent out of the English Market, he offered his influence to obtain the Vessels liberation, but on learning the circumstances of her capture, he found it impossible to render him the least assistance.

I shall confidently look for a letter from you at Montreal by the 20 August, when it is probable I may be there.

Remember me affecy to the family & to the good old people in the Bowery.

I am, My D^r Uncle,

Y^r Most Affec. f^d

H. BREVOORT, JR.

MR. JOHN WHETTEN

New York.

ABBOTSFORD, APRIL 23^d 1813

Abbotsford, April 23^d 1813.

MY DEAR SIR:—

I beg you to accept my best thanks for the uncommon degree of entertainment which I have received from the most excellently jocose history of New York. I am sensible that as a stranger to American parties and politics I must lose much of the concealed satire of the piece but I must own that looking at the simple and obvious meaning only I have never read any thing so closely resembling the stile of Dean Swift as the annals of Diedrich Knickerbocker I have been employed these few evenings in reading them aloud to M^r. S. & two ladies who are our guests and our sides have been absolutely sore with laughing. I think too there are passages which indicate that the author possesses powers of a different kind & has some touches which remind me much of Sterne. I beg you will have the kindness to let me know when M^r. Irvine takes pen in hand again for assuredly I shall expect

ABBOTSFORD, APRIL 23^d 1813

a very great treat which I may chance never
to hear of but through your kindness.

Believe me Dear Sir

Your obliged humble serv^t

WALTER SCOTT

H. BREVOORT, Esq.

LIVERPOOL, SEPTEMBER 12th 1813

Liverpool, Sept. 12th, 1813.

MY DEAR SIR:—

This will be handed you by M^r Charles Kemble, concerning whose plans I have already written you. The professional reputation of M^r Kemble will supercede anything I can say on *that subject*, but of those high personal excellencies which elevate him far above the mass (*not merely of actors but*) of men, I have reason to speak with fervency and decision. You will confer a favor on *me* by seconding the view of M^r Kemble in America, with your influence & advice.

Believe me,

Dear Sir

Ever truly Yrs

JOHN HOWARD PAYNE.

H. BREVOORT, ESQ.

LONDON, JUNE 2^d 1816

London, June 2^d 1816.

MY DEAR SIR:—

M^r Bibby's return to New York affords me an opportunity of once again addressing you, yet I can hardly persuade myself to it,—since the idea of being considered *troublesome* is strongly impressed on my mind, for (if I recollect) this is the second or third time I have had the honour of writing you, without being favour'd with your reply. Well?—I positively do flatter myself that you will forgive the intrusion—and since I have the promise of so able a pleader as M^r Bibby, I cannot I am sure fail of obtaining your pardon. Indeed we feel gratified to M^r Washington Irving for his introduction to M^r Bibby—who we have found a most amiable young man, and I regret to think that our managers have not acted with more liberality to him than they have, for he has displayed a great deal of merit in his *Pertinax & Shylock*, and received every applause that could be bestow'd; but I need

LONDON, JUNE 2^d 1816

not tell you how much it rests in the power of managers to forward the views of a performer, —they did not exert themselves to put M^r Bibby forward,—but I trust his talent will be duly appreciated among his friends on the other side of the water. We shall be all anxiety to learn.

London is likely to be more gay this season than for many years past, on account of the Royal Marriage. I wish you could have enjoy'd the treat of M^{rs} Siddons' acting the other night, the *shades* of all men of taste I favoured taking a peep at this *queen* of Tragedy. Miss O'Neill loses nothing in attraction, but is rather improved in her acting —if improvement is possible—than otherwise. I do not doubt but M^{rs} Barnes will prove a great acquisition to the New York Theatric Corps.

I must now present Mr. Nairne's remembrance to you—with those of my family—who unite with me in requesting that you will

LONDON, JUNE 2^d 1816

oblige us with a few lines when opportunity serves.

And now I must subscribe myself (in haste)

Y^r sincere friend

S. A. BOOTH.

May I request you to offer my regards to all I have the happiness to know. But I beg most particularly to be remember'd to M^r Kemble and M^r Swart(wout). I hear he is now perfectly happy. I have not heard a word from M^r W— Irving for an age past, but I hear he is well, and I rejoice to say M^r P— Irving is again in possession of health.

LONDON, SEPTEMBER 21st 1819

London, Sept. 21st 1819.

MY DEAR BREVOORT:—

By the Atlantic, Capt. Matlock, you will receive a parcel containing corrected copies of the 1 and 2nd Nos. of the Sketch Book, from which I wish the 2nd edition (if they should go to 2nd edition) to be printed.

I am at work on the 5th number, and hope to send it in time to have it published before Christmas. My mind gets running away from me now & then and breaking into subjects which are not fitted for the number in hand, and sometimes I have long intervals of *literary incapacity*, which occasions delays.

In great haste

Yours affectionately

W. I.

LONG BRANCH, SEPT. 28th 1819

Long Branch, Sept. 28th 1819.

DEAR BREVOORT:—

With this I forward you a packet from Wash^a inclosed to me; it contains but one article and whether any other has been sent or not I am ignorant. His letter to me accompanying this parcel contains but two lines, merely requesting me to hand it to you—he has however no doubt written to you respecting it.

The success of the "Sketch Book" is extremely gratifying. I understand that the 1st No. is off and that you are about putting a 2^d edition to press. Jn^o T. says that you had an idea of selling it to Wiley—for \$500—. I think it rather low if the editions usually average a profit of \$600—As the work has taken a handsome run and is a favorite, I am inclined to believe that a choice of purchasers can be made—the best in every considerable place would willingly bargain for sufficient to supply their particular market under the

LONG BRANCH, SEPT. 28th 1819

agreement that you sell to no one else there. I think by some such arrangement good men may be commanded in every place without risque of loss—perhaps if those persons were written to before putting an edition to press, requesting to know what number they would respectively wish mentioning that no more than the whole number thus ordered would be printed it might be the means of taking off a larger number at once and when another edition should be called for the same method might be pursued.

I have not understood whether the quantity of the 2^d & 3^d Nos. printed was larger than the 1st but I should suppose that the 1st being all off already, the quantity of the succeeding numbers might be made up to what we first thought of (4000)—if it should be thought proper that the number in each edition should be the same that can be easily complied with by adding to the title page of one half—“Second Edition” and selling them last.

LONG BRANCH, SEPT. 28th 1819

My suggestions as to mode of putting off the work arise from my anxiety of making the most of it for Wash. I have no expectation of being in New York until the alarm of fever subsides when I shall be very happy in doing any thing to assist you in these matters, meanwhile should you wish anything from me, a letter, put on board the Steam boat Franklin for Shrewsbury directed to me at "Capt. Wardell's Long branch," will reach me. I write in haste but have time enough to assure you that I am

Yours very truly

EBEN^r IRVING.

LONG BRANCH, OCTOBER 3^d 1819

Long Branch, Oct. 3^d 1819.

DEAR BREVOORT:—

I wrote a few days since and sent you an article for the Sketch book which I had just received from Washington. Ch^s Baldwin, Esq^r who did me the favor of taking it promised to deliver it to you immediately or put it in the Post office. Yesterday I received the Manuscript of N^o 4—it ought to have reached me on Monday evening. I expect to avail myself of the politeness of M^r Lippincot (of the firm of Stephens & Lippincot) to send it to you with this, tomorrow. I have overlooked the N^o and think two of the articles ("The Mutability of Literature" and "John Bull" *fine*—but a little doubt the reception of the *tale* which though a pretty thing and neatly told is still a *tale*. I have little doubt however but that nine out of ten of the *female* readers will be pleased with it. Wash. complains in his letter to me of our having neglected to send him a copy of the work promptly; it seems

LONG BRANCH, OCTOBER 3^d 1819

that he was favored with the sight of a copy of the 1st N^o by a Gentleman who had received it nearly a month before the one sent him had come to hand. He wishes that copies might be dispatched to him before they are published here if practicable—both he and the Doctor are highly pleased with the style and execution.

I am happy to hear such favorable accounts of the health of the City and hope I shall be able to return in ten or twelve days.

Yours very sincerely

EBEN^r. IRVING.

NEW YORK, JANUARY 2^d 1824

New York, January 2^d 1824.

DEAR SIR:—

I regret to learn that your family has been afflicted by ill health & that your professional labours have been so unfortunately interrupted. I cheerfully assent to your request to postpone the repayment of the loan until the month of March & hasten to assure you that the repose of the Court of death is in no danger of being disturbed by this incident.—In the course of the month of March however, I shall be greatly obliged by a punctual return of the money.—

Your idea of painting a national portrait of Washington is certainly an excellent one & in my opinion cannot fail of being successful. Would it not be advisable to associate it with some historical incident of his life?—Stuart's likeness has hitherto usurped the place of every other in public opinion & there is no doubt that it pos-

sesses great merit, but it was taken after the mouth of the General had been distorted by the rude hands of the dentist, and does not do justice to the natural expression of his features.

Yours will probably exhibit him earlier in life, and hence you will be enabled to remedy this striking defect.—

In the picture that I possess by Pine, his mouth is one of the most expressive features and in perfect keeping with the other parts of his face.—A skilful physiognomist would in my opinion at once point out this glaring defect in Stuart's picture, without any knowledge of the original.—

You have probably not forgotten the picture we saw at Paff's, said to be by Raphael.—The owner of it was kind enough to place it in my hands previously to his return to South America, & I promised to use every means of ascertaining its real value.—M^r J. R. Murray, from the first, was under strong impression

that it might be an early picture of Raphael & it affords me great satisfaction that his opinion has been confirmed in a remarkable manner by an Italian artist lately arrived in New York in the family of M^r Dale. This gentleman who is a very respectable professional painter is positive that the picture is an undoubted Raphael.—There is a picture in the collection of the King of Naples, regularly traced from the hands of Raphael, the same in design, with the exception of the rag of a curtain in the corner of M^r Seton's picture, which this gentleman has studied & copied. The copy he brought with him, & compared it with the picture in question, which after a minute examination he pronounced to be a genuine picture by Raphael, painted anterior to the one in Naples which he conceives to be a more mature effort of the great painter's pencil.

Now I really think his opinion entitled to great weight & it will give me great pleasure

NEW YORK, JANUARY 2^d 1824

for the sake of my f^d Seton that it may be confirmed by further testimony.—

I am

Dear Sir

Very Sincerely Y^s

HENRY BREVOORT, J^r

REMBRANDT PEALE ESQ.

PHILADELPHIA, JUNE 13th 1824

Philad^a June 13th 1824.

DEAR SIR:—

I was ignorant until today that you had answered my last letter & was uneasy from an apprehension that you were not pleased with the state of the case.—But your polite note, which I have just received, relieves me from that degree of apprehension, tho' not from the consequences of my not having had "my hopes realized." When I last wrote to you I had every reason to believe that Congress would have passed the Resolution before them. I learned too late that they would have passed it to procure the Portrait before them, but many of them, dissatisfied with the large Paintings by Trumbull, were indisposed to engage another without knowing what it might be.—Notwithstanding this, had it not been for the tedious Tariff Bill, it would have passed in the reduced form in which it was reported to the House—i. e. for an Equestrian Portrait with an elegant frame at \$3000.

PHILADELPHIA, JUNE 13th 1824

In the Senate it was proposed to give me \$5000 without saying anything about Frame. It may be best on the whole that the former Resolution did not pass, as I shall probably be better remunerated—And I have now determined to paint the picture the same as if it had been ordered, with the expectation that on presenting to them a magnificent and finished Picture they will not hesitate giving me the largest sum.

The Portrait is daily advancing in reputation—& will have time before the next Session to be fairly established as the only authentic Likeness. In addition to the Testimony given in Washington & Baltimore (part of which has been published) I have received a letter from Bishop White who says that my "Picture is identified in his mind with the features, the countenance & the character of that great man." Another from Major Jackson (who was with him when Washington sat to Stuart) universally regarded as the most competent

judge, having served as his aid—was Secretary to the Convention—lived 3 years with Washington as his private Secretary—and travelled in the same Carriage with him through the United States. He says that “in striking similitude of features and characteristic expression of countenance he considers it the best and most faithful Portrait of the great Father of his Country & that he is persuaded it will be gratefully appreciated by the nation.” Another from M^r Rush, the Carver, who “fought, worked, and eat with him” in which he pronounces it “the Best likeness which he has seen on Canvas.” Judge Peters, Judge Tilghman, Col: Forest & Col: M^cLane will give their enthusiastic and unqualified approbation to be conjoined with the above & those of Judge Marshall, Judge Washington, Col: Howard, Ed: Livingston, M^r Custis, Ch^s Carroll, Gen: Harper, Gen: Udree, Rufus King, &c which I have. In short, within the space of three months, since which it was pro-

PHILADELPHIA, JUNE 13th 1824

duced, it has triumphed over the deepest prejudice that ever Portrait had to contend with. It was already decided that the Portrait by Stuart, whose reputation was so well established, was destined to be transmitted to our posterity, as it was spread all over the world, as the true likeness—and altho' faults were found with it by those who had known the Original himself, the objections did not spread far around them & the objectors were dying off fast. But my Portrait has united their testimony—enables them to designate the faults of the other, and they have unanimously pronounced a Verdict which must become the law of the land. I have therefore been well employed in executing this painting—and I cannot help thinking I shall be well employed in making a splendid Equestrian Picture, altho' neither can immediately furnish me with any pecuniary assistance, much as I stand in need of it, with a large family of Girls. But it is my duty to make this effort,

PHILADELPHIA, JUNE 13th 1824

because it would be unjust to neglect the opportunity of profiting by so singular an advantage. If the general and State governments do not reward me, I should then be fairly justified in renouncing my Country. In the meantime the little Portrait painting which I may procure, will barely suffice for my family & I am doubtful whether I can procure the means of extricating my Court of Death from its unprofitable seclusion—The only prospect I have is that M^r Pendleton who will return to New York in a few weeks may repay you the money and take the Picture to England for me.

The service you have rendered, under the circumstances in which I was affected, was peculiarly grateful to me—and I hope will always be reviewed by you with satisfaction, when you reflect on the nature of its purpose. If you should not visit Philadelphia this Summer, I hope to send my picture to New York in the Autumn when you may decide upon its

PHILADELPHIA, JUNE 13th 1824

merits, at least as a Portrait in a new style—which indeed is much commended. It is my intention to take the Original to London, accompanied by all its precious testimony—It will be a good introduction to me, in conjunction with the commissions to paint for you & others the likenesses of persons whose rank in Society will procure me some notoriety.

In case of your absence from the City when M^r Pendleton may arrive will you designate the manner he may act in obtaining the Picture should it be in his power?

Believe me with great respect

Your most obliged

And Obt Servt—

REMBRANDT PEALE

NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 22^d 1825

(*New York,*) Feb. 22^d, (1825).

MY DEAR SIR:—

I must beg of you (if you have it) to send me some snuff—no matter how old. It may be stale & flat but cannot be unprofitable. I am now confined to my room for the second time this season with the influenza and I have been for twelve hours without a pinch. It is bad enough in the ordinary occurrences of life to be *at the last pinch*, but I have got past that crisis, and my hopes are now centered in the *first pinch* of what you may send me. Poor Falstaff babbled of green fields in his last moments & I find my thoughts are beginning to run on tobacco plantations. If you would save me from a Calenture send me some sustenance, were it only a “remainder biscuit.” If you have among your books a translation of an old Spanish Novel called “Guzman D’Alfarache” written about the time of Cervantes, you would add much to the comforts of my present condition by sending it to me; and it

NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 22^d 1825

would delight me much to accompany a certain *Master Lithgow* in his travels, who among all his privations, I dare say never wanted a pinch of Lundy Foot, at least while he peregrinated in Ireland. This last book you were good enough to offer me some time ago. I hope you have all escaped the prevailing epidemic. My children have all had it. My best respects to M^r Brevoort.

Very truly yours

R. EMMET.

H. BREVOORT Esq.

WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 25th 1825

Washington City, Dec. 25th 1825.

MY DEAR SIR:—

I will be extremely obliged to you to perform a commission for me in which I feel much personal anxiety.—

At the strong solicitation made by Vanderlyn, the painter himself, I exerted my influence last winter with the City Council of Charleston to obtain for him a contract to paint a full length likeness of Genl. Jackson. Under a most positive assurance on his part that the picture should be finished on the first of last May, I drew on the Council for one half of its price which was advanced to Vanderlyn. Instead of completing his contract he has only renewed his application for more money which was done last August, at that time promising that the picture should be forwarded in four weeks. Up however to the period of my departure the picture had not arrived.

You will therefore do me an essential favor

WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 25th 1825

to ascertain whether he has sent the picture, and if it is yet unfinished be so good as to hand him the enclosed Letter which I leave open for your perusal.—

You will be doing me a favor and rendering the corporation a service if Vanderlyn should yet be procrastinating to endeavour to appeal to his feelings & pride as a Gentleman should he have any of these impulses left.—

With my most respectful recollections to Mrs. Brevoort,—

I remain, My Dear Sir,

Very respectfully & truly

Your ob Svt

J. HAMILTON, JR.

Should Vanderlyn either be working at the picture, or about to ship it, in this case it would perhaps be best to withhold the delivery of my Letter, as I do not wish causelessly to wound his feelings.—You will do for me a friendly office if you can urge him in any way to the fulfillment of his engagement.—

BALTIMORE, MAY 24th 1826

Baltimore, May 24th 1826.

DEAR SIR:—

I inclose at your suggestion a proxy to vote for me at the next annual meeting of Stockholders of the Montreal Bank which is to take place of 5th June next.

You may fill up the blank in your own name or in that of any other individual in whom you may have confidence. Having the utmost reliance in your discretion I leave you free to act for me in this business after having previously examined into the affairs of the Bank. I have no desire to lend myself to the views of any party, but if after mature deliberation it shall appear quite satisfactory to you that a change in the direction will benefit the Institution you will be pleased to act accordingly. Beggin[g] to hear from you on this subject on your return, I remain with respect,

Dear Sir

Y^r most hum. Serv^t

CH. CARROLL OF CARROLLTON

TO HENRY BREVOORT, Jun^r, Esq.

ROUEN, 1828

(Peter Irving—the " Doctor " had been, as we recall, Brevoort's travelling companion in early years. He wrote, however, very rarely to Brevoort, leaving most of the correspondence to Washington. It is thus all the more to be regretted that the first two pages of the following missive have disappeared.)

My brother Washington is at Seville, busily occupied on some writings which are facilitated by his residence in Spain, and which he wishes to get in such a state of preparation as to be out of danger, before he leaves that country. He is fearful that the writing mood may desert him when he gets again abroad in the world. He has completed an abridgment of his history of Columbus in one volume, and the manuscript was to proceed from New York in the Brig Francis to sail from Cadiz in about the last week of December. I trust it will have reached its destination before you get this letter. He was induced to make this

ROUEN, 1828

epitome by some articles in the New York American between the 20th and 30th September, by which it appeared that some anonymous person had announced an intention to take the materials from his work and publish an abridged life of Columbus. To protect his work from being garbled and mangled he made an epitome himself.

I regret to send you so brief a letter after so long an interval, but I have several to write for the Packet, and the emergency occurs on a sudden, as my parcel must be despatched for Havre this evening.

One word respecting myself before I close. My health has been considerably battered during the last ten years. I had three or four years of severe rheumatism, and nearly three of a very troublesome headache. Fortunately I am at present free from both, and am passing the winter pretty comfortably by a snug fireside, surrounded by old books, in this venerable old city, the Capital of Upper

ROUEN, 1828

Normandy. I think it probable that I shall turn out in the spring, like a snake that has cast his skin, in robuster health than I have been for several years.

The Steam concern in which I have an interest, has been doing business to a fair profit during the past year, and the prospects are also fair for the present.

I am my dear Brevoort, with affectionate regard,

Yours

P. IRVING.

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 28th 1830

St. Mark's Place (8th St.)

September 28th 1830.

DEAR SIR:—

Last evening came up to see me, M^r Hone & handed me from you the 2 Vols. in French of the *Discussions upon the Civil Code*, & for which I am greatly obliged to you.

I believe you took with you when you went to France some years ago, the 1st Edition of my Commentaries. However, whether you did or not, I wish you to possess the 2d which is a *more correct and greatly enlarged & improved Edition*, and I annex an order on my agents (Messrs. Clayton & Van Norden) in whose possession they are, for a Sett for you. I regret to put you to the trouble of sending for them. They are unbound & I own none else, as M^r Halsted no longer keeps a Bookstore himself, & all the Booksellers buy of them. You will be obliged therefore to have them bound (if you wish it) at Paris to suit your taste.

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 28th 1830

I wish you a pleasant voyage and that you
may meet your family in Health & Happiness.

Yours most truly

JAMES KENT.

HENRY BREVOORT, Esq.

PARIS, 1831

DEAR SIR:—

I dined yesterday with the old Marquis de Marbois. I found myself seated, by chance, between Messrs. Pichon and Adet, who made, including our host, three ex-ministers of France to the U. States. Jefferson's letters were mentioned, and both M. de Marbois and M. Pichon, who were intimate with Jefferson, expressed a desire to see them. I could not offer to lend your volumes without your permission, but you would confer a favor on me by granting the permission.

The Marquis de Marbois is President of the Court of Accounts and a Peer. He is eighty years of age, and of great personal respectability and receives once a week. He is, at all times, very kind to Americans, having married in Philadelphia. His age, official rank, and, above all, his kind feelings towards America render him a proper object of attention. It is quite in the course of etiquette that you should visit him, if you feel disposed. The result

PARIS, 1831

would be an invitation to dinner. Cuvier, Villemain, and a great many other men of similar character, are found at his table, besides a host of peers and deputies. I am rather intimate, as you may judge, having dined there three times in six weeks, and if you will give me leave I will request permission to call on him with you, next Thursday evening.

I should also say that one meets, at his table, a great many Frenchmen well disposed to America, and that occasions offer to aid in bringing our relations in better train, than they are at present. Let me know your determination.

Yours very truly

J. FENIMORE COOPER.

H. BREVOORT, Esq.

Yesterday the Marquis styled La Fayette the Patron of Americans at Paris, and himself

PARIS, 1831

the *vice* Patron. This was said in pleasantry, but it shows his disposition to be on good terms with us. His son-in-law, the Duc de Plaisance (the son of Le Brun) lives with him.

FONTAINEBLEAU, APRIL, 1832

Fontainebleau, April, 1832.

MY DEAR FATHER:—

I wrote by the last packet to mother—We are still here to avoid the cholera, which continues to prevail at Paris; the reports of the last five or six days exhibit a sensible decrease in the number of deaths. The general opinion here amongst the wise men is that it will reach America; if it does so, it will fall most severely upon the population of the Southern states, so much so, as will in all probability put an end to their insurrectionary schemes, by carrying off half their negroes.

Margaret writes me that your health and your spirits are good, but that you worry yourself about your affairs being in an unsettled state & that when she tells you to spend your money in comforts, you stop her by saying that you are over head and ears in debt & so on.—All this gives me pain, for you know, my dear father, that I cannot feel

happy myself whilst I hear that you are yourself discontented.—Now, so far as I know on the subject of your affairs, you owe but two debts, I mean the bond to the heirs of Coster & the bond to me: the first you have the means of discharging whenever you like, if indeed you have not already done so—The other, you may also discharge in three days if you see fit, provided you should think it proper to agree to a proposal which I am about to make to you.—It is this—Ascertain from M^r Renwick & M^r Cary (for your bond is left in their hands) the amount that is due from you to me—and then convey to me as many of your lots as you think will discharge it, *at your own valuation*, and I pledge myself to be satisfied with *your own award, be it what it may*. The only condition that I would ask is that the Lots shall be in a body, but they may be taken from any part of your ground that you choose to select. The reason of my making this request arises from a sort of pro-

FONTAINEBLEAU, APRIL, 1832

ject that I sometimes entertain, of building a larger house for my large family, if it should please God we return to America in safety; & I might probably see fit to do it upon the ground that has so long belonged to our family, in preference to any other.—I hope you fully understand my intentions in making this proposal to you & that my motive originates in a wish to remove from your mind any source of discontent that lies within my own power. I hope too, that you understood my motives in refusing to purchase the lots you offered to me before I left America.—I refused to take them, because I felt afraid that in the event of their rising in value (which was next to certain) that I might be accused of having taken an ungenerous advantage of your necessities, in order to benefit myself.—I told you then, what I now repeat, that so far as you & I were concerned, all might be adjusted in a moment, without any fear of after disputes or bitter retrospections; but as others felt they had rights

& claims in the business, I felt myself too delicately situated to yield to your wishes.— I am glad that I did so.—In case you see fit to settle our affairs in the manner now proposed, I request you to give the deed to M^r R or M^r Cary & request that it may be recorded.—

I have been much gratified to learn that you are pleased with Elias' wife, & from all I have heard, she seems worthy of your kind feelings. As to Elias, he has always shown himself to be possessed of dutiful and affectionate feelings toward all of his family that are worthy of it. He is a man of principle and I feel towards him the warmest attachment.—If he has not shown himself active & enterprising, the fault is as much owing to the manner in which he has been brought up as to his nature—but the truth is he has never yet had it in his power to act upon his own responsibility, and give proofs of what he is capable of doing. I have written to him & given my opinion

FONTAINEBLEAU, APRIL, 1832

against undertaking a large farming establishment for the present, but rather to undertake upon a smaller scale the cultivation of fruits & a nursery, which would be found a more profitable as well as agreeable scheme. If the grounds that you possess are not unfitted for such a purpose, I do wish you would (until something better adapted can be procured) allow him to cultivate them in such a manner as he likes, uncontrolled—The rent that might be required from him, I will guarantee shall be paid to you.—I can send him from France Grape vines & any other things that might be useful if desired.

The boys were well and happy in Switzerland the last time that we heard from them. The little girls are all with us.—With mine & Laura's kindest regards to you all, I remain,
my dear Father,

ever affectionately your son

HENRY BREVOORT, JR.

FONTAINEBLEAU, APRIL, 1832

N. B.

I request that you send me an answer to this letter as soon as you conveniently can.—
Elias will be your secretary.

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 28th 1833

New York, Sept. 28th 1833.

I enclose you, My Dear Sir, the letter of Sir Walter Scott which some ten years since I rescued from a heap of rubbish in my Father's garret. I have set a great value upon it, not only from its being an autograph of one so illustrious, but that it bore testimony at so early a day of the talents of my Uncle Washington. As I cannot, however, dispute your better title to it, I send it to you, venturing at the same time to express a hope that it may at a future day return to some one of our name.

I am,

My Dear Sir

With much respect

Very truly yours

PIERRE P. IRVING

H. BREVOORT, Jr., Esq.

NEW YORK, OCTOBER 8th 1833

New York, Oct. 8th 1833.

MY DEAR SIR:—

I take the liberty to present to you Captain Alfred Mordecai, of our army—the number *one*, of his year at West Point. His amiable qualities, no less than his high professional distinction, induce me to ask you to receive him as one of [our] countrymen the most entitled to consideration.

Hoping that you will have had a happy meeting with your family,

I remain, with great esteem,

Yrs. very truly

WINFIELD SCOTT.

HENRY BREVOORT, Esq^r,

Paris.

PARIS, MAY 23^d 1834

Paris le 23 mai, 1834.

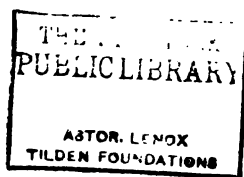
MESSIEURS:—

C'est avec le sentiment de la plus respectueuse reconnaissance, que j'ai reçu la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'adresser, au moment où ma famille et moi, nous venions de perdre le père vénérable et tendrement aimé, que le ciel nous avoit donné.—

Après avoir comblé de satisfaction et de gloire, la vieillesse de celui qui avait eu le bonheur de leur consacrer ses plus jeunes années, les citoyens des états-unis, vont pleurer avec nous sur son tombeau, et ces larmes seront pour sa mémoire, une précieuse récompense, de sa fidélité aux convictions qu'il avoit rapportées de la terre classique de la liberté.—Ces larmes seront avidement recueillies par ses enfans, et petitsenfans. Elles leur donneront du courage pour supporter leur malheur, de la force pour marcher d'un pas ferme et assuré, dans la route qu'a toujours suivie, celui qui a su les mériter.—

Messieurs

C'est avec la
reconnaissance
fait l'honneur
famille et ma
vénéralité et
avait donné
après avoir
gloire, la vie
bonheur de
années, les c
avec nous du
seront pour é
recompense,
qu'il avait r
la liberté. —
recueillies p
elles leur don
leur malheur
pas ferme et



PARIS, MAY 23^d 1834

Messieurs, votre sympathie adoucit notre affliction, elle répand un baume salubre, sur nos cœurs brisés par la douleur.—

Recevez l'hommage de notre respectueuse gratitude.—

GEORGE W. LAFAYETTE

A Monsieur HENRY BREVOORT,
et les membres du Comité Américain

(Translation of Lafayette's Letter)

Paris, May 23^d 1834.

GENTLEMEN:—

It was with the sentiment of most respectful gratitude that I received the letter which you did us the honor to address to me, just after my family and I had lost the venerable and tenderly loved father whom Heaven had granted to us.

After having heaped satisfaction and glory on the old age of him who had the good fortune to consecrate his most youthful years to them, the citizens of the United States

PARIS, MAY 23^d 1834

now weep with us over his tomb, and their tears in his memory will be a precious reward for his fidelity to the convictions which he had brought from the classic land of liberty. —These tears will be gladly gathered up by his children and grandchildren. They will give them courage to support their misfortune, strength to march with firm and assured step along the road that was ever followed by him who knew how to deserve these tears.—

Gentlemen, your sympathy softens our affliction and spreads a salutary balm on our grief-shattered hearts.—

Accept the homage of our respectful gratitude.

GEORGE W. LAFAYETTE

To Mr. HENRY BREVOORT

and the Members of the American
Committee.

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 8th 1836

20 Broadway, Sept. 8th 1836.

Col^o Trumbull presents his respects to M^r Brevoort & begs him to accept an Engraving of Gen^l Washington, done from a picture painted by him, many years since.

PARIS, JULY 1st 1842

Paris, July 1st 1842.

MY DEAR BREVOORT:—

I have barely time to scribble a few lines in the office of the Legation here, in reply to your letter by Carson. I am delighted to have him with me and shall endeavor to do all that you wish respecting him. My heart warms toward him not merely on his own account, but also on your own. He seems like a new link in our old friendship which commenced when we were both about his age or even younger; and which I have always felt as something almost fraternal. Hamilton I perceive has already taken a strong attachment to him. The other member of my diplomatic family, Hector Ames, is an excellent little fellow; quiet modest, yet manly and intelligent. I think they will all agree well together and form a very pleasant *état major*.

As they require some little time to fit themselves out I shall linger some eight or ten days longer at Paris; but I am anxious to get to

PARIS, JULY 1st 1842

my post, and relieve my predecessor Mr. Vail, who wishes to get to the mountains with his family, for the health of his children. I am desirous also of forming my establishment and feeling myself once more settled. The unsettled life I have led for some months past begins to be extremely irksome. I have enough to do to bother me, yet no settled occupation to interest me. My mind is perplexed by arrangements for my domestic establishment, and solicitude about my new career, any* with all this I am harrassed by the claims of Society, which, with all my exertions, I cannot fight off. Paris & London are terrible places for these kinds of claims, which cut up ones time, disturb ones quiet, and render life a continual round of empty toils. I am amused with the solicitude of our friend Thorn on my account who thinks I am turning my back upon fortune, and ruining my prospects in life by neglecting to follow up the friend-

*and.

PARIS, JULY 1st 1842

ships proferred me in saloons. He could restrain his feelings no longer a few evenings since, at an evening party where the Duchess of Grammont had sought an acquaintance with me and held me for some time in very amiable conversation. On leaving her Thorn took me aside and implored me leave a card the next day for the Duchess and at the same time read me a most affectionate lecture on my neglect on this piece of etiquette with respect to various other persons of rank. He attributes all this to my excessive modesty: not dreaming that the empty intercourse of saloons with people of rank and fashion could be a bore to one who has run the rounds of society for the greater part of half a century and who likes to consult his own humours and pursuits.

I shall endeavor, when fixed at Madrid, to strike out some line of literary research and occupation for Carson according to your wish. In the mean time he will be seeing continually

PARIS, JULY 1st 1842

new places, new people, and new customs and usages—at least new to him.

At a moment of more leisure I will write to you more fully—Remember me most kindly to Mrs. Brevoort and the young folks.

Yours ever my dear Brevoort

WASHINGTON IRVING

NEW YORK, APRIL 24th 1843

New York, April 24th 1843.

HENRY BREVOORT, ESQ.

DEAR SIR:—

A Committee has this day been appointed by the Vestry of Grace Church authorized to negotiate for a plot of ground for the purpose of erecting thereon a Church for that Congregation. And as Chairman of that Com: I am directed to enquire from you the price you would ask for 125 feet on the east side of Broadway between 10th & 11th Streets by 140 feet in depth with a guaranty that the Church be held harmless from any assessments that the said plot might be subject to, in case of the contemplated opening of 11th Street from Broadway to the Bowery, and in that event giving to the Vestry the priviledge of taking at the same rate the square foot the gore on Broadway to 11th Street.

The Vestry being desirous of immediate purchase, and having other sites in view I

NEW YORK, APRIL 24th 1843

would ask an answer at your earliest convenience.

Respectfully

Your Ob. S^t

DAVID AUSTIN,

Chairman

NEW YORK, APRIL 25th 1843

New York, April 25th 1843.

DAVID AUSTIN, ESQ.

DEAR SIR:—

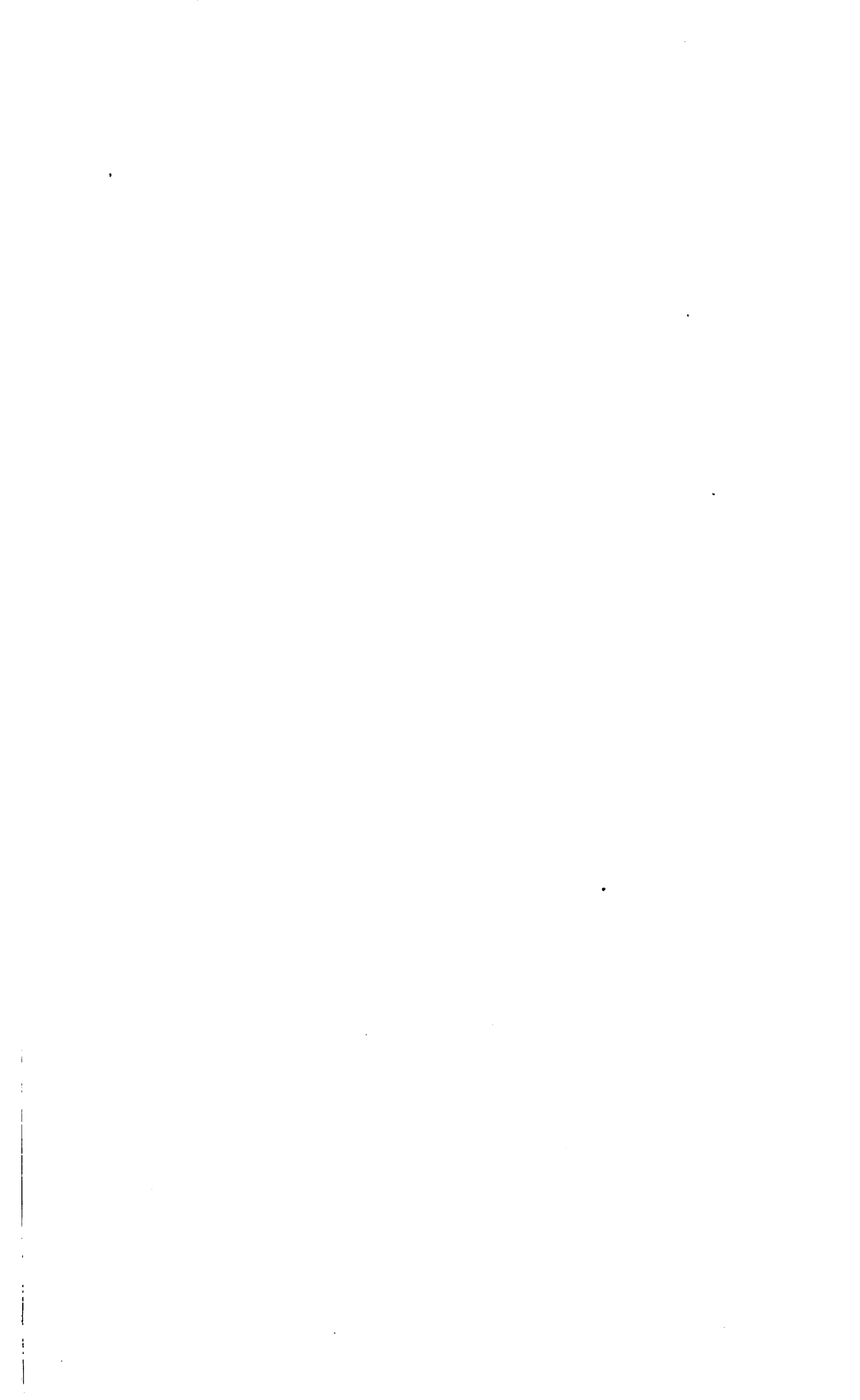
In reply to your note of the 24th inst I beg to say, that the heirs of my late father are willing to sell to the Vestry of Grace Church, the plot of ground on the east side of Broad Way between 10 & 11 Streets, 125 feet front in said B^d Way, by 140 feet in depth—adjoining the marble yard at the Corner of 10 S^t & B^d Way for the sum of \$35000 & they (the heirs) will stipulate that nothing in the shape of a nuisance shall be erected upon the gore of land lying north of the above plot of ground & the Corner of 11 S^t; but they will not guaranty that Grace Church shall be held harmless from any assessment that the said plot may be subject to in case 11 S^t should hereafter be opened from Broad Way to the Bowery.—

I remain

D^r Sir

Y^r Obt. St.

H. BREVOORT.



MAR 9 - 1953

